

## COLUMN

## Businessman bounces check to buy Onassis yacht

KEENE, New Hampshire (AP) — A New Hampshire businessman with grandiose plans to refurbish a Greek ship, bounces a check to buy the Onassis' opulent yacht. Christina has had problems with his first payment to the Greek Navy. Two of his advisers have said, Alexander Blastos, 28, who said he became a millionaire in real estate and commercial investments, bid \$2.2 million for the yacht in November. When the bid was accepted in February, he said he planned to spend \$40 million restoring the 100-metre ship for his own use and for his children, the former New Hampshire Democratic Party Chairman Chris Spiros said. Christina Spiros said a lawyer in Greece who helped in the sale told him "the guarantee did not pass muster." Athens, lawyer Vahavolos confirmed Spiros' report. He said the first payment was worth one-tenth of the bid, \$2.2 million. "He has not paid and there is also a serious question with the letter of guarantee," Mr. Vahavolos said. "For reasons I can't understand he seems to want to back down from this." He added that breaking the deal could have serious consequences for Mr. Blastos as the "navy will demand considerable sums from him." The Athens newspapers have also reported problems with the sale. Mr. Spiros said he got involved in the deal as a favour to Mr. Blastos' uncle, Mike Blastos, an old friend. Mr. Spiros said he has not heard from Alexander Blastos in more than a month. Mike Blastos said he last talked to his nephew about a week ago, and knew nothing of any problems with the purchase. He said he believed Mr. Blastos was somewhere in Europe. The Christina was originally a Canadian corvette. Onassis bought it in the 1960s and refitted it with luxuries such as gold faucets, rare antiques, fine art and a scaplane. Among those who cruised on it were his wife Jackie Kennedy Onassis, his longtime lover and opera diva Maria Callas, movie star Greta Garbo, singer Frank Sinatra, and British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill. After his death in 1975, his daughter Christina, under which it was named, gave the ship to the Greek navy. It was renamed Argo and was used to carry VIPs including the country's president.

## S. African diver tries record sit-in with crocs

SCOTTBURGH, South Africa (R) — South African navy diver Paul Whitley slipped under water in a tank of Nile crocodiles on Wednesday to set a world record-sitting record and beat the world submersion record of 212 hours. Mr. Whitley, 34, dived into the specially prepared crocodile tank near Scottburgh in KwaZulu-Natal Province shortly before 11 a.m. (0400 GMT). Crocodile Manager Arther Wilms said "He is trying to set a world record for sitting in a tank with crocs, and he is aiming to beat the current world submersion record of 212 hours," he added. The eight crocodiles, aged between four and five years old, are between 1.8 and two metres long. Mr. Whitley would be allowed out of the water for six hours every 24 hours to recuperate. "We're worried his skin will become waterlogged and start falling out, among other potential problems," he said.

## Car maker seeks safest way to run over kangaroos

MELBOURNE, Australia (R) — Australia's oldest car company General Motors Holden has designed a robot kangaroo in its bid to work out the safest way to run over the country's national symbol. Named "robo-roo," the dummy kangaroo is designed as a 60 kg buck and will be used to judge the impact of used to judge the impact of kangaroos on cars in collisions. Each year about 20,000 kangaroos are hit by Australian motorists in accidents. There are estimated to be more than 20 million kangaroos in Australia, three million more than the number of human beings.

## Iran: Azeri war religious duty

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Saturday it was a religious duty for the people of Azerbaijan to defend their land against Armenians. The official Iranian news agency IRNA said Ayatollah Khamenei told Azerbaijan's President Heydar Aliyev at a meeting in Tehran that "it is religious duty for the people of Azerbaijan to defend their own territory against the aggressors." The people of Azerbaijan have been the victim of an aggression and the Armenian government is the aggressor party in this issue," Iran has pledged support for Azerbaijan in the six-year-old territorial conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh. Iran has a large Azeri minority. Both nations are largely Shiite Muslim, but religion has not played a major role in Azeri politics in recent times. IRNA said Mr. Aliyev told Azeri diplomats attending a training course in Tehran that unnamed big powers were helping the Armenians in the Nagorno-Karabakh war. "Aliyev... accused the big powers of supporting Armenia in its savage war on the Republic of Azerbaijan," the agency said.

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## Algerians sought for 40 murders shot

TUNIS (R) — Algerian security forces killed 10 armed militants wanted for about 40 murders, including the killing last December of a Belgian national and his Algerian wife, the official news agency APS said on Saturday. The gang was also wanted for the murder of the nine-year-old daughter, wife, and son, 30, of a retired gendarme who had their throats slit in their home two weeks ago. The agency said security forces, tipped off by local people, raided the militants' hideout in Oued el Berdi village, some 90 kilometres southeast of Algiers and shot them dead. Security forces said that besides weapons, they seized the seals of a militant organisation called Islamic Armed Group-the Green Death Company, in the raid last Wednesday.

## Sifi meets Egyptian officials

CAIRO (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi discussed Arab and international affairs with his Egyptian counterpart Ataf Sedki on Saturday, Egyptian Television said. Mr. Sifi arrived in Cairo on Friday for three days of talks with Egyptian officials. He met President Hosni Mubarak shortly after his arrival and passed on a message from Algerian President Liamine Zeroual. Several Algerian ministers accompanied Mr. Sifi on his visit to Cairo, including Foreign Minister Salah Dombi who will attend a two-day conference on Mediterranean cooperation in Alexandria on Sunday. Algeria and Egypt have both been hit by a wave of militant violence over the past two years and more than 3,700 people have been killed in the civil strife in Algeria.

## 80 killed in Mauritania air crash

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Eighty people were killed and 13 injured when an air Mauritania Fokker-28 crashed in Mauritania, an official at the national hospital in the capital said. Five of the injured were in serious condition and would be transferred to France for treatment, the official told Reuters. No official explanation of the crash at Tidjikia, 450 kilometres east of Nouakchott, has so far been given although the state AMP news agency said weather was bad at the time.

## Ramiz Alia jailed for 9 years

TIRANA (AFP) — Albania's last bardline communist president, Ramiz Alia, was sentenced to nine years in prison on Saturday for abuse of power and violating citizens' rights. Judge Andi Celiku also ordered Mr. Alia, 68, to pay \$10,000 to the state to compensate for alleged embezzlement of public funds. The prosecutor had called for Mr. Alia, who succeeded Albania's veteran Stalinist leader Enver Hoxha in 1985, to be jailed for 10 years. Two ministers and five other officials who served under Alia were also jailed for up to eight years.

## Sudan election commission sworn in

KHARTOUM (R) — A seven-man election commission was sworn in before Sudanese head of state Omar Hassan Al Bashir on Saturday, state radio reported. It quoted the head of the commission, Former Judge Abdul Moneim Al Zain Al Nahas, as saying the commission would supervise elections and referendums at the state and national level. The commission includes retired army and police officers and has one southerner, Morris Lawiya, a former governor of Equatoria state. The government is fighting rebels in the south in an 11-year civil war. General Bashir banned political parties in Sudan when he seized power in a coup from civilian Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi on June 30, 1989.

## Arafat visits cradle of intifada, calls on end to Palestinian rift

Combined agency dispatches

JABALIYA REFUGEE CAMP — Yasser Arafat visited the birthplace of the Palestinian uprising Saturday and asked a wildly cheering crowd to help him build an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

"The challenge is to be or not to be," Mr. Arafat said from a balcony. "Can we really build a national authority that will lead to a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital?"

The crowd roared: "Yes, yes, yes." Mr. Arafat saluted Jabaliya camp, where youths fought Israeli soldiers with stones and bottles in a rebellion that paved the way for the autonomy agreement with Israel and Mr. Arafat's own return.

The speech recaptured some of the boundless euphoria among Palestinians after gaining autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. At least 10,000 people turned out to see Arafat and swarmed around his security force.

He called on Muslim fundamentalists and other opponents to join him in the self-rule government. "This national authority is for all Palestinians and all Palestinian territory," he said.

He added that the self-rule accord was the best deal he could get.

"Maybe the agreement that we signed isn't satisfactory for some people, but it's the best we could get in the terrible Arab circumstances."

Mr. Arafat again called on Israel to free thousands of Palestinian prisoners it still holds, many of them opponents of the autonomy accord who have refused to sign statements renouncing violence that Israel demands as a condition for their release.

As Mr. Arafat spoke, an Israeli army helicopter hovered over the camp, where 70,000 Palestinians live in crushing poverty amid open sewers, mounds of garbage and widespread joblessness. Earlier, Mr. Arafat vowed he was home for good after 27

years in exile, convened a first session of his fledgling government, and promised Palestinians that a state waits at the end of the hard road ahead.

In remarks punctuated by first-thumping spurts of anger and quick smiles, Mr. Arafat told an early-morning news conference he was upset by the world's failure to make good on promises of aid for the self-rule government in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

"All the international offers are only ink on paper and nothing has been implemented until now," said the man who symbolises the cause of the world's six million Palestinians.

"My feeling is that they are just promises, promises, promises,"

Mr. Arafat wore his customary olive-drab uniform and black-and-white headscarf.

He was ringed by a cordon of nervous security men, who leaped at a reporter approaching Mr. Arafat's table to flip over a tape in a tape recorder. Security has been a major concern, often given precedence over allowing people a glimpse of their long-awaited leader.

During Mr. Arafat's speech Friday afternoon to 80,000 people in Gaza's square of the Unknown Soldier, there was an assassination scare when a cameraman used equipment that looked like a pistol grip. Police arrested him.

At the seaside Palestine Hotel, his makeshift headquarters in Gaza, Mr. Arafat convened members of the Palestinian National Authority for a midnight session.

"The most important challenge is to build the new Palestinian authority which will lead to an independent Palestinian state," he said.

According to the peace pact signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel last September, self-rule is to last five years, with the final status of the West Bank and Gaza to be negotiated two years from now.

The authority is to run Gaza and Jericho until elections are held in mid-October at the earliest. It will be sworn in Monday in Jericho, said Justice Minister Fathi Abu Medeen.

Under the accord, Israel and the Palestinians also are to negotiate the expansion of self-rule to the rest of the West Bank and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from West Bank towns and cities.

Mr. Arafat said he hoped redeployment could be completed by August, paving the way for the elections. He promised that "our elections will be held as soon as possible" and said he wanted to establish a democratic homeland.

Mr. Arafat bristled when a reporter asked whether he was just visiting the Palestinian territories.

"May God forgive you. It's not a visit, it's not a passing visit," Mr. Arafat said, pounding on the table. "I am coming back to my homeland."

Mr. Arafat prayed at the spot in Jabaliya where 17-year-old Hatem Abu Sisi became the first martyr of the intifada when an Israeli bullet pierced his heart on Dec. 9, 1987.

Mr. Arafat also stopped at the home of Imad Akeel, once described as Israel's most wanted man, shot by soldiers last December. Akeel was a local commander of the military wing of Hamas, the group opposed to the peace deal with Israel.

Mr. Arafat stressed the need for cooperation with Hamas and other opposition groups.

"I call from here to Hamas, the (Islamic) Jihad, the DFLE (Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine)... and Fateh, I call on them to help me lift the heavy burden. Come and help me lift it," he said.

"My brothers, this is a difficult march, but it is the march of heroes, the mighty people," he said.

The crowd, mainly young men, raised clenched fists and chanted nationalist slogans.

He repeated the pledge in his first speech on Friday that Palestinian rule would even-

(Continued on page 7)



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath are received upon their return home Saturday

## King, Queen return home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Saturday evening following visits to Britain and the United States during which the King underwent medical checkups and held talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton, senior administration officials and members of Congress.

In a statement upon his return, the King described his trip as successful noting that the U.S. administration was "serious about the peace process and understands our position and stand."

The U.S. administration has reaffirmed its keenness on maintaining strong ties with Jordan in a most positive manner, King Hussein said.

Asked to predict the future of the negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track, the King said: "I believe that we will soon embark on an arduous and tedious negotiations process to discuss all issues on the Jordanian-Israeli agenda that was endorsed in Washington in September."

On Palestine President Yasser Arafat's current visit to the self-rule areas, the King said: "I wish him success and I wish the Palesti-

nian people would retain their cohesion and achieve their objectives."

On Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, the King said: "I believe that we are starting the negotiations soon and it would be arduous and hard to discuss all issues on the common Jordanian-Israeli agenda."

"We are facing a tremendous effort in the battle for peace in the near future and I hope the results would be good, especially now that our brothers have marched along the path, with Egypt in the lead and later the Palestinians."

## Israel is ready to talk about extending Palestinian self-rule

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli leaders have said they were ready to begin negotiations with the Palestinians on extending Palestinian self-rule throughout the West Bank, an official here said.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) began preparatory talks Tuesday at Erez, on the edge of the Gaza Strip, ahead of negotiations on the next stage of autonomy which was launched by a Cairo accord on May 4.

But the two sides have not yet discussed extending self-rule from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho to the rest of the occupied West Bank.

Israeli military and government leaders told Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin during a meeting that talks could start on widening autonomy, the official said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, foreign ministry under-secretary Uri Savir, Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shoham and General Danny Rodishid, Israel's coordinator for the occupied territories, took part in the meeting.

A series of Israeli-PLO committees are to be set up to discuss issues left over from the Cairo agreement, official sources say.

These include the early empowerment of Palestinians on the West Bank in health, tourism, social welfare, taxation and education, as well as movement between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Under the declaration of principles for autonomy, signed last September, Israeli forces were to pull out of Palestinian population centres on the West Bank not later than the eve of general elections.

The vote was scheduled for no later than July 13, but has now been put off by the Palestinians until mid-October.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres were expected to review the entire autonomy question at talks with PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Paris on July 6, when all three receive a U.N. peace award.

Thousands of Israelis congregated at Jerusalem's western wall on the Sabbath on Saturday to lament Mr. Arafat's visit to Gaza and protest at a future pilgrimage to the Holy City.

"I hope he comes to Jerusalem because if he does, he won't get out alive," said one

right-wing Israeli, who did not give his name, at a tent camp set up by dozens of protesters on a hill opposite Mr. Rabin's office.

Palestinian sources said Mr. Arafat did not plan to visit Jerusalem on this trip.

Jewish settler leaders had called on Israelis to flock to the wall for prayers to voice opposition to Mr. Arafat and what they believe to be the government's sale of their birthright to the biblical land of Israel.

Worshippers stood 20 deep the length of the wall in a sea of white shirts and dark pants. Ultra-orthodox sages wore fur-trimmed hats in the withering heat, as families of Jewish settlers pushed prams by the wall.

West Jerusalem, its shops closed and buses idled for the Sabbath from dusk on Friday until sundown on Saturday, was a picture postcard of tranquility a day after hundreds of Israelis opposed to the peace deal with the PLO scuffled with police.

"It was a day of humiliation in the life of the state of Israel," former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon said about Mr. Arafat's triumphant entry to the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Rabin said that the agreement was reached among Jordan and Israel and the United States on a date for holding the tripartite U.S. Jordanian-Israeli committee meeting. He said Jordan's official position regarding further meetings would be announced later.

On the siege on Aqaba, the minister said that Jordan has reached a final agreement with the Lloyds register firm which will conduct the observation of goods in Aqaba.

He said that the agreement does not allow for any infringement on Jordan's sovereignty and at the same time meets the international demands concerning sanctions on Iraq.

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(Continued on page 12)

## Border talks in mid-July — Anani

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian and Israeli delegations will meet at the experts level at Wadi Arah north of Aqaba at the Jordanian-Israeli borders in the second half of July, Minister of Information Jawad Al Anani said Saturday.

Fayez Tarawneh, head of the Jordanian peace negotiations team and the Kingdom's ambassador to the United States, will head the Jordanian side to the Wadi Arah meeting whose date has not yet been finalised. Dr. Anani told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Dr. Anani, who was speaking after a Regular Cabinet session, said that the first meeting by the Jordanian and Israeli teams of experts will define a mechanism for subsequent meetings and a mechanism for the work of the three joint Jordanian-Israeli committees which will tackle the questions of borders, security, water, environment and energy.

These committees were decided on during His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Washington and are designed to work out a formula that would enable Jordan to regain its rights, the minister said.

No time limit has been fixed for the meetings and the committees will continue their discussions until definite agreements have been concluded, Dr. Anani said.

The minister said that Jordan is keen on maintaining strong ties with Syria and has been careful to ensure continued strong relationships with Damascus based on mutual respect.

Dr. Anani said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit Jordan in the second half of this month in the course of his shuttle trips between Syria and Israel to give momentum to the peace process.

The King's visit to Washington, which included meetings with President Bill Clinton, came days after Jordan and Israel agreed in early June to accelerate steps towards their future peace.

This included moving their talks to the region after holding them in Washington since the start of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Madrid in October 1991.

Dr. Anani said Amman had proposed that the meetings take place in areas north of Aqaba — along the ceasefire line in the Wadi Arah valley.

"Under the umbrella of this commission, three sub-committees dealing with borders, water, energy and the environment, and with security will meet at the same time in different sites along (Jordanian-Israeli) sides of the valley," Dr. Anani said.

The minister denied that an agreement was reached among Jordan and Israel and the United States on a date for holding the tripartite U.S. Jordanian-Israeli committee meeting. He said Jordan's official position regarding further meetings would be announced later.

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(Continued on page 12)

## Colombia self-goal World Cup star shot dead in Medellin

BOGOTA (Agencies) — Gunmen early Saturday killed the soccer player who accidentally scored against his own team, contributing to Colombia's surprise first-round elimination from the World Cup.

Andres Escobar, 27, was shot up to 12 times in a parking lot outside a bar in his hometown of Medellin at 3 a.m. and was pronounced dead at a hospital, said radio reports citing police.

"Thanks for the autograph," or own goal, one of the gunmen said before shooting Escobar, an unidentified witness told a radio reporter.

In Dallas, Texas, a minute's silence was observed at Saturday's World Cup matches in memory of Escobar.

FIFA, soccer's governing body, condemned the act, which was apparently meant as punishment for Escobar's own-goal in Colombia's 2-1 defeat by the United States in the first round of the World Cup.

"For the two round of 16 matches on Saturday, Spain versus Switzerland and Germany versus Belgium, a minute's silence will be observed in tribute to the victim of this dreadful crime," FIFA President Joao Havelange said.

"FIFA deeply condemns this cowardly and criminal act and hopes that the perpetrators will be brought to justice."

U.S. organisers also released a statement condemning the shooting.

"We are horrified at the death of Andres Escobar and

our deepest sympathy is with his family and all those who loved his stylish play," the statement said.

"We deplore the violence which has taken this talented young man's life."

In Colombia, President Cesar Gaviria, who attended the USA-Colombia match in Los Angeles on June 22, offered sympathy to Escobar's family.

He said the player would be remembered for his talent, his dedication and his love of his country.

Colombia reacted with shock that one of its best players was suddenly dead.

The RCN national radio network said 3,000 people had gathered in front of the morgue in Medellin where



# Orthodox Christians demand end to patriarch's real-estate dealings

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Eastern Orthodox Christians in Jordan and Palestine have stepped up their efforts to prevent the Greek head of their church in Jerusalem from disposing off church property in the Holy City and elsewhere in the occupied territories.

The Eastern Orthodox Church commonly called the Greek Orthodox Church, is among the richest of all religious congregations in the Holy Land. It owns dozens of churches, monasteries, schools, hospices, hotels, houses (rented and otherwise), and shops in and around Jerusalem and elsewhere in the occupied territories as well as within the boundaries of Israel as it was created in 1948.

The Greek leadership of the church has been locked in a running conflict with the Arab community for many years, with the community accusing the Jerusalem-based patriarchate of disregarding the rights of his congregation and following an autocratic way of dealing with church property and affairs.

The disposal of land in the occupied territories is a highly sensitive issue, given the Israeli drive to acquire Arab land through all means and build settlements there.

The very fact that there are very few Arab clergymen in the patriarchate — four Arabs as opposed to 90 Greeks — is an indicator of the patriarch's approach to church affairs, community leaders say.

During a recent annual general meeting of the Orthodox Society, community leaders voiced their deep concern over the "dictatorial way" Patriarch Diodoros I deals with church property and the affairs of the church. They renewed an appeal to the government to seek an end to such practices, said Raouf Abu Jaber, head of the society.

"All members questioned the right of the patriarch to dispense with land and property and the manner in which he has been doing recently through long-term lease," said Dr. Abu Jaber.

The patriarch has not been consulting the community while handling church property despite the fact that he is obliged to do so, said Dr. Abu Jaber.

Fouad Farraj, a prominent member of the Orthodox Society and former deputy representing Jerusalem in the Jordanian parliament, said that only the government could do anything to dissuade the patriarch from such unilateral way of dealing with church



Fouad Farraj



Raouf Abu Jaber

property. "A 1958 Jordanian law gives the patriarchate its rights, duties and responsibilities," said Mr. Farraj. "The patriarch uses his rights, but does not respect his duties and responsibilities."

"The only authority that could do something about the state of affairs of the church is the government," Mr. Farraj told the Jordan Times. "But, given the sensitivity of the affair, the government is treading very carefully."

"The clergymen are having a good time at the expense of the community and church property," said Mr. Farraj. "This has to stop."

Official sources said the government had conveyed to the patriarch the concerns and asked him to closely consult the community in his dealings. But in view of the Israeli occupation of the Holy Land, the government finds itself handicapped to go beyond such diplomatic means, the officials said.

Dr. Farraj said the very term "Greek Orthodox Church" is misleading. "If you go back in history, the term was only used to distinguish between the Western and Eastern Roman empires," and there is nothing specially Greek about the church except that it has mostly been headed by a Greek-origin cleric, he said.

"There are some people who would like to remain within the Arab perspective and call it Arab Orthodox Church, while others would like to call it Eastern Orthodox Church since it includes faithful beyond the Arab World," Mr. Farraj said.

Dr. Abu Jaber provided several examples of the "flagrant violations of laws of the land, the church code and general standards of moral ethics" by Patriarch Diodoros I, who was appointed in 1981, and whose real estate activities are run by Jacob Kabati, an Israeli Jew and former intelligence officer.

These included either a 99-year lease or outright sale of more than 800 dunums of church land near Deir Mar Elias on the road

between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. "Visiting the site now is a heart-rending experience," Dr. Abu Jaber said. "Instead of the thousands of the Roman-called old olive trees, one sees roads being paved, settlements being constructed and depots of construction machinery and material," he said.

In Nazareth, a 422-dunum plot was sought by the Orthodox community there to build a commercial centre and a housing suburb, but the patriarch sold the land to a wheeler-dealer who was known to Jaffa brought legal action against this deal, but seeking justice from an occupying force is like attack a bull with a needle," he said.

Among other examples of the patriarch's unilateral way of dealing with church property cited by Dr. Abu Jaber were:

— The patriarch's move to take control of 5,500 square metres of land used by the Jaffa community for nearly 140 years. "The patriarch claimed ownership, but even an Israeli court turned down his case," said Dr. Abu Jaber.

— A 1991 exchange of a large area of land near a Jewish settlement for a small piece of land elsewhere. Dr. Abu Jaber said the exchange was clearly aimed at giving the settlement "better control of the Jerusalem-Jericho road."

— An Orthodox cemetery on Jabal Sahayun overlooking the Silwan neighbourhood of Jerusalem is now open for the burial of Israeli soldiers and Russian immigrants "who came to Israel as Jewish settlers and died as Orthodox Russians."

"By entertaining such ridiculous claims, the non-Arab clergy undermine the Arab existence in Jerusalem and its environs at a most crucial time," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

He said reports say that the patriarch is now engaged in negotiations to sell church land in the Mount of Olives, in the coast of Acre, on Jabal Tabor near Nazareth and in Ramleth. "The discussion of these

cases, although saddening to the hearts of the community, has opened the eyes to the importance of keeping up the struggle so as to save the Orthodox legacy in the Holy Land," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

The Orthodox communities in Jordan and Palestine are demanding that:

— All deals related to orthodox church property be conducted in public and all details be made available to the community; and

— Clear accounting be made of the proceeds from the transactions.

The meeting of the Orthodox Society in Amman, representing about 200,000 Orthodox Christians in Jordan and Palestine, also decided to send an open letter to Patriarch Diodoros I warning him against any more disposal of church land. "The communities remember the solemn promise made by Patriarch Diodoros I during his election campaign in 1981 when he made a promise at the Abdali Orthodox Church that not an inch of church property will be disposed off," Dr. Abu Jaber said. "They decided to remind him of this in public."

The society also sent cables of thanks to His Majesty King Hussein, "who opened the eyes of the country to the importance of preserving and protecting Awqaf property through his generous act towards the Dome of the Rock repairs," Dr. Abu Jaber said. "They also thanked His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for his keen interest and understanding, and prime minister for the instructions he has given to safeguard the interests of the Orthodox communities and the preservation of their legal rights."

"The big questions is: How long will this sad situation continue and will there be a constructive change like in other Arab churches such as the Latin, Greek, Catholic and Protestant?" said Dr. Abu Jaber. "Or will the confrontation continue until the explosion occurs?"

be a front for a big Jewish housing society," and part of the land is "already the site of an Israeli armoured car factory," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

A subsequent court ruling favoured the church community and said that the patriarch, "as custodian, is under an obligation to give the orthodox community details of deals."

In Jaffa, an Orthodox cemetery of 16.7 dunums was sold to an Israeli-Canadian construction company which has now built 250 housing units there, Dr. Abu Jaber gave another example. "The Orthodox Committee in



A highway and a settlement on church land belonging originally to the Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem

## Key dates and events in life of Arafat

The Associated Press

Aug. 4, 1929: Arafat says he was born in Jerusalem, but independent researchers said his birthplace was either Gaza or Cairo, Egypt. He was born to a prosperous Palestinian merchant who died fighting in the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948.

1951-1957: He was sent to Cairo University to study engineering and soon became involved with the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood after enrolling in 1951. He organized the Union of Palestinian Students of which he was president in 1952-56. He got his first military training in Egypt, serving as a reserve second lieutenant and leader of a demolitions squad in the 1956 Suez war between Israel and the Arabs. Arafat's ties to the fundamentalists led to a warrant for his arrest in early 1957 while he was attending a student conference in Prague, Czechoslovakia. He fled to Kuwait, where he got a job as an engineer and opened a private contracting business.

1959: In Kuwait in October, Arafat and like-minded young Palestinians founded



Yasser Arafat

Al Fateh, an underground group whose members believed Palestinians should work independently for the return of their homeland. Moving to Beirut, Arafat began organising within the refugee camps and raising funds to start a guerrilla group.

1964: On New Year's eve, Arafat took command of a squad of five guerrillas and crossed from Lebanon into northern Israel where the guerrillas attacked a water-

pumping station. Thereafter, the Palestinians observed Jan. 1, 1965, as the beginning of the revolution movement even though the organisation was a creation of the Arab League in 1964 and the first chairman was a Palestinian lawyer, Ahmed Shukaity. 1967: The Arabs were defeated by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war. It was then that Arafat slipped into the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River and organised resistance cells.

1969-1974: Arafat took charge of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) from Shukaity in February, 1969, and by 1974 Arab heads of state declared Arafat's PLO to be the "sole representative of the Palestinian people."

The same year he was invited to address the U.N. General Assembly and characteristically he arrived in battle garb with a pistol holster strapped to his side.

1975-1980: Arafat is deemed a "terrorist," yet he dispatched his guerrillas to help evacuate U.S. citizens during Lebanon's 1975-76 civil war and mediated with Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for the

release of U.S. hostages seized in Tehran in 1979. Arafat's Al Fateh guerrillas in 1980 adopted a resolution calling for the "liquidation" of Israel.

1982: Although the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 resulted in the expulsion of his PLO from Beirut, Arafat proclaimed it the PLO's "greatest victory." His guerrillas stood up to the Israeli army for 88 days, longer than any Arab army was able to do four previous wars.

1985: In October, Arafat narrowly escaped death when Israeli warplanes demolished a long-range air raid on Tunis, the Tunisian capital.

1991: Arafat is married in Tunis to Suha Tawil, the daughter of a Palestinian activist and writer. She studied political science at the Sorbonne in Paris. She was raised a Christian, but converted to Arafat's Muslim faith.

1994: Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sign the Cairo accord on May 4, which introduced self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Arafat made his historic return to Gaza on Friday.

## 'Rodeo' skills help prepare air forces for any contingency

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Just as World Cup soccer is drawing international crowds to major cities in the United States, the international military air competition known as "Rodeo '94" is a similar magnet in Washington state.

The "star performers" in this June 25-July 1 competition — described as the "Olympics" of air mobility — are the pilots and their crews from 13 nations.

Teams from Australia, Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Spain and the United States are at McChord air force base (AFB), near Tacoma, competing in varied events demonstrating such skills as short airfield landings, combat control tactics, aircraft maintenance, and aerial refueling.

The Italian team flew two Aeritalia G-222s to the Rodeo, the Spanish competitors brought an Airtec C-235, Transall C-160s accom-

panied the Germans and French, and the remaining international teams flew C-130 Hercules transporters. Participating U.S. aircraft included the C-17 Globemaster, C-141 Starlifter, C-5 Galaxy, KC-135 Stratotanker and KC-10A Extender.

U.S. Air Force Major General Marvin Ervin, this year's Rodeo commander, noting the serious nature of the competition, said the skills being evaluated are the same ones which would be used during a military deployment in either combat or peacetime. "Everything that we do in a contingency, we are practicing here," he said.

"These are the (same) aircraft, crews and support people we see," Ervin explained, "when we go someplace around the world." He said the Rodeo organisers could not accommodate all of the international teams which wanted to participate this year. However, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Thailand, Tun-

sia and Venezuela sent observers, and Ervin said he expects all of them will be able to compete next year.

Exposing other countries to new or different procedures that are practised is part of the purpose of the Rodeo, according to Hewgley.

Four Jordanian observers were scheduled to fly on June 29 with the 37th Airlift Squadron, which is normally based in Frankfurt and has been flying air drops to Bosnia as part of Operation Provide Promise. Royal Jordanian Jumeil Qudus said they would be flying on a C-130 to view firsthand a personnel air drop and to "see if there is anything new" in the squadron's techniques.

Hewgley noted that observer nation Mexico was able to learn from American C-130 crews how to conduct tactical air drops.

"It would certainly have been nice to have some of the former Soviet Union folks represented" this year, the

commander added, predicting their participation in future competitions.

U.S. Air Force General Ronald Fogleman, commander of headquarters at the U.S. Transportation Command and Commander of the Air Mobility Command (AMC) at Scott AFB, pointed to "the spirit of camaraderie" taking place at the Rodeo, including the exchange of flag and aircraft pins as well as squadron patches and T-shirts. A number of U.S. allies were invited to the "world class event," he said, with Singapore and South Korea responding to the invitation by sending air force teams for the first time.

Air Force Captain Troy Hewgley, director of international teams for the competition, said global participation is "the most important" aspect of the Rodeo. He said it builds a rapport and working relationship with possible future military leaders while perfecting skills which may be needed "for future scenarios around the world."

## Iraq pledges to search for missing Kuwaitis

GENEVA (R) — Iraq pledged on Friday to look into the fate of 600 Kuwaitis missing since Baghdad's 1990-91 occupation of the emirate, officials from both countries said.

But Western diplomats said they were sceptical about Iraq's cooperation, which some suspected was aimed at gaining support for the removal of crippling United Nations economic sanctions.

It was the first time since October 1991 that an Iraqi delegation had attended such talks, held in Geneva under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Kuwait submitted detailed dossiers on 609 nationals missing since the end of the Gulf war and called for Iraq to report back its findings within

two months, Kuwaiti officials said.

Mohammad Al Haddad, a board member of Kuwait's national committee for prisoners of war and missing persons, said Iraq's mere attendance was a "change for the better."

"It is a step forward," he told Reuters. "But we are definitely still sceptical." Kuwait sought a promise of

information about those missing not later than end of August, he said. "The Iraqi delegation said the time was short. But we expect information by then," he said.

"The Iraqis promised to give a substantial answer." Kuwait was backed by Britain, France, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ... Les Maîtres Du Pain  
18:30 ... News in French  
18:45 ... Faith For Revival  
19:00 ... News in Hebrew  
19:15 ... The Investigator  
20:00 ... World Cup Soccer Match  
20:30 ... News in English  
20:45 ... Reported Family  
21:00 ... The House of Eliott  
21:30 ... World Cup Soccer Match

### PRAYER TIMES

01:55 ... Fajr  
05:29 ... (Sunrise) Dhuha  
12:30 ... Dhuhur  
16:20 ... Asr  
19:00 ... Maghreb  
21:26 ... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swedish, Tel. 810740  
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 62725  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terremas Church Tel. 623466  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623461  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Fayed Dabbas ..... 759155  
Dr. Jamal Tarif ..... 794710  
Dr. Abbas Al Hakeem ..... 853446  
Dr. Shabaneh Al Izzah ..... 753774  
Fire pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 783536  
Al Astma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairookh pharmacy ..... 636762  
Al Salem pharmacy ..... 636730  
Shimoon pharmacy ..... 646945  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nairookh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 647432

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

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### HIAZ RAILWAY

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:30 p.m. every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

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Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

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## Jerash Festival panel rejects programme protests

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — The Higher National Committee for the Jerash Festival, which is chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Saturday strongly rejected politically-based protests of this year's programme.

"The committee realises the major challenges and profound changes which face our region," said a statement released to the press by festival director Akram Masarweh. "There is no avail in confronting the reality of the path of history by calls for isolation or ideological screams," the statement said, alluding to calls by some writers to bar prominent Arab poet Adonis from attending the festival because he attended a meeting with Israeli intellectuals late last year in Granada, Spain.

During a press conference to announce the 13th festival's programme for this summer, Mr. Masarweh reiterated that the festival "will be open to all Arab artists, regardless of their politics."

The Jerash Festival is an open and democratic arena, he said, where artists are chosen to perform, as was the case with Adonis, "not for his political views, but for his artistic merits."

To agree or disagree with Adonis's views was one thing, Mr. Masarweh said, but to block him from reciting his poetry based on those views was another matter altogether.

Although the committee

pledged that in the future the festival would "study with meticulous care" the artists chosen as a part of its programme, it stressed that above all, its goal was to see "awakened progress" in the festival's programme "to strengthen all which is human and true in our Arab cultural heritage."

The 13th Jerash Festival has been expanded significantly over those held from 1991-1993. The festival will be returned to the full scale it held before the advent of the Gulf War brought on financial difficulties for the festival and the Amman-Jerash road was closed for reconstruction.

Now that the road is open again, Mr. Masarweh said, "we expect to receive 10,000 to 20,000 visitors daily."

The 13th staging of the festival, which will last from July 20 to August 6, will include five theatrical performance areas in the ancient Roman city and 54 performing groups, some 20 of which are Jordanian.

Among major artists coming to the festival are Syrian singers Ali Sabah Fakhri and George Wassouf, Qatari singer Ali Abdul Sattar, and Lebanese musician Mansour Rahbani as director of a musical entitled "The Will Play." Also coming is New Zealand opera singer Malvina Major.

Mr. Masarweh confirmed that the noted Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, although until recently scheduled to perform, is now



Lebanese vocalist Rageh Alameh performs at the 1993 Jerash Festival (File photo)

unable to come.

The festival includes a forum known as "Masrah Al Ibdan" or "Theatre of a Creativity" which will serve as a "window" for the public to see talented Jordanians "who otherwise would not have had the chance to participate in the festival," according to Mr. Masarweh.

The re-expanded festival will also include some 38 Arab and Jordanian poets, a handicrafts area which will feature Omani artisans, a book display and a seminar on Arabic poetry entitled "Foreign Effects on Contemporary Arab Poetry," among other events and performances.

## Police release more names of dead in road accident

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — Police on Saturday released the names of two more people who were killed in the June 27 Amman-Irbid road accident.

The deceased, Hussein Mohammad (29) and his wife Sana'a Suleiman (20), whose one-year-old son injured in the same accident remains in intensive care,

were identified by relatives, the report said.

The report also released the names of four other victims who were transferred to King Hussein Medical Hospital on Thursday for treatment.

The injured are: Ribhi Ahmad (18), Ghazi Ahmad (14), Mohammad Kamal (9) and Mashour Hassan (28). The four are listed in

fair condition.

The accident involved two passenger buses and a tractor which collided at the Naimeh intersection, killing 31 people and injuring 92 others. Other sources reported 32 dead.

It was the second worst road accident in the country in a two-month period.

Meanwhile, the Civil Defence Department (CDD)

weekly statistics report said 42 people were killed in various accidents in the country. Of the 553 accidents the CDD responded to, 415 were emergencies and 129 fires.

According to Captain Abdul Ra'of Ma'aytah, director of public relations at the CDD, road accidents accounted for most of this week's emergencies.

## Family medicine clinic opens at university

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The University of Jordan Saturday inaugurated a family medicine clinic at Jordan University hospital, which was financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

University President Fawzi Gbaraibeh opened the clinic expressing appreciation to USAID and also to Brown University in Rhode Island which provided the expertise and sponsored the creation of the clinic.

USAID representative in Jordan Tom Oliver and Vincent Hunt of Brown University addressed the inauguration ceremony stressing the importance of the clinic's services to the community.

They said they hoped that the new clinic's programme would contribute to the development of medical services in Jordan as a whole.

Sami Khouri, head of a committee in charge of family medicine at the University's Faculty of Medicine told the Jordan Times that the programme would cover as a first stage, staff

and faculty members insured through the university.

"We need time to recruit sufficient staff to ensure the continuity of the programme because we are concerned with patient follow-up," said Dr. Khouri.

He said that USAID has pledged \$793,000 to be spent over four years by Brown University on the purchase of computers and the training of staff members.

The programme requires staff members at the clinic to meet with each patient for at least 30 minutes to obtain his/her background

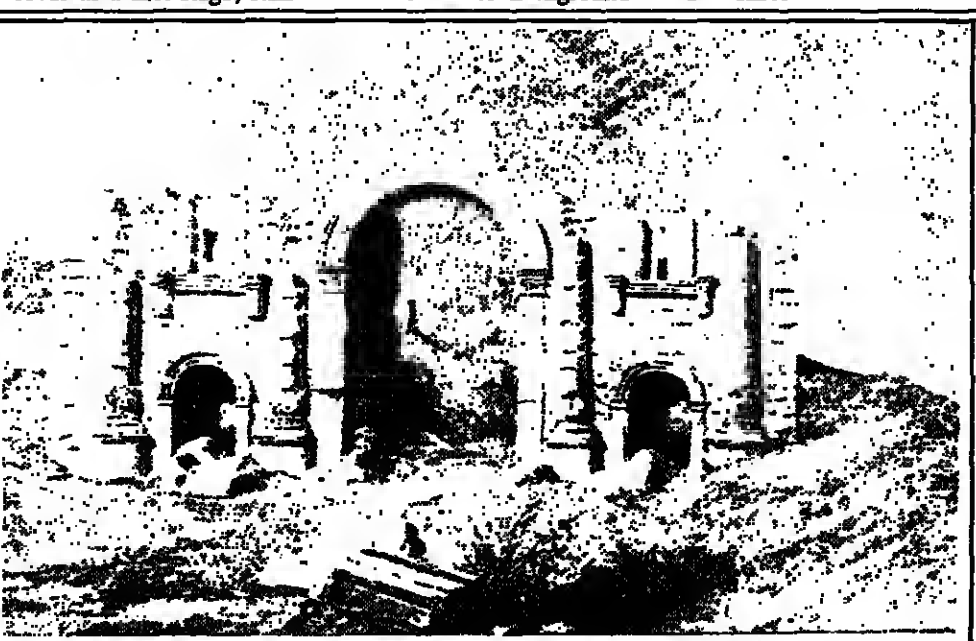
and medical history, and later have shorter follow-up meetings with these patients during regular visits.

The clinic will provide comprehensive and continuous medical services to families covered within the programme at reasonable fees, according to Dr. Khouri.

He added that the clinic will stress punctuality.

"After we have established the right working mechanism and acquired sufficient staff for continuity, we plan to expand the services to include other sectors of patients," said Dr. Khouri.

A TRAVELLERS VIEW:  
The Triumphal Arch in Jerash, shown above, is one of a newly-issued series of postcards and posters by Arslan Ramadan. Mr. Ramadan came across these old paintings by travellers to Petra and Jerash during the early 19th century at a British library. Fascinated by their beauty and aware of their rarity, Mr. Ramadan has decided to reprint and market them in Jordan. Explorers of that period often were accompanied by artists to depict scenes along their journeys.



## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### THIRD YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL

★ Drama in Arabic entitled "A Face For Everything" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Sculpture and ceramic exhibition by Iraqi artist Laith Al Turk at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Uthaina (Tel. 826932).

★ Exhibition by Lebanese artist Gloria Tannouri at Philadelphia Hotel (Tel. 607100).

★ Exhibition of Palestinian national heritage at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

★ Two exhibitions by artists Khalidoun Abdul Razzaq and Abdul Jabbar Suleiman at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by artist Raja' Abu Ghazaleh entitled "Heritage and Faces" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Painting exhibition by artist Fakhr Farzat at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).

★ Exhibition by plastic artist Kheiri Harzallah at the Jordanian Plastic Association in Shmeisani (Tel. 699914).

★ Exhibition by artists Hassan Abboud and Hadi Sa'ad at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

★ Exhibition by artist Bishara Al Najjar at the Orient Gallery for Fine Arts, Gardens Str. (Tel. 698513).

★ Painting exhibition by Iraqi painters "The Pioneers Group" at Al Ain Art Gallery — Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451).

★ Exhibition on the development of "Le Louvre" at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjouri at Al Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720677).

★ Painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Abdul Ra'uf Sham'oun at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

## Jordan to attend Bahrain meeting on regional electricity network

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Jordanian delegation will attend a July 9-10 meeting in Bahrain on a proposal for a regional electricity network, the head of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) said Saturday.

The meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Kuwait, but the venue was shifted to Bahrain and invitees were informed of the move this week, officials said.

JEA Director-General Mohammad Arafah said the meeting, organised by the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development (AFSED), will review studies made so far on linking the power grids of all Arab countries east of the Mediterranean.

This would mean the six Gulf Arab states — Saudi

Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — which make up the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Yemen, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan as well as Iraq.

"It is a technical meeting involving the complex issues involved in linking the power grids of all these countries," Mr. Arafah told the Jordan Times.

No further details were available on the proposed project. Mr. Arafah said studies had been going on "for many years," and that details could be discussed only after the Bahrain meeting. He did not say whether he himself might be attending the gathering.

Erstwhile considered a routine gathering of technical experts, the meeting drew sudden attention when a Kuwaiti newspaper, the English-language Arab

Times, reported Saturday that Jordan had been invited to the meeting to be held in the emirate.

"A Jordanian delegation is scheduled to visit Kuwait ... to attend a conference on the electricity linkage of eastern Arab states," the Arab Times reported.

Reuters quoted the paper as saying that the Jordanian delegation was invited by the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development along with delegates from 11 other Arab countries.

Had the meeting taken place as scheduled in Kuwait, it would have been the first official visit of a Jordanian delegation to the emirate after bilateral relations were strained during the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Arafah confirmed that the meeting was scheduled to be held in Kuwait. "But this morning I was

informed that it has been shifted to Bahrain," he said.

No further detail or explanation was immediately available as to why the venue was shifted.

The Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development is extending a loan of \$115 million to help Jordan's energy sector. Part of the loan will be used to finance an expansion project at the JEA's Aqaba thermal power plant and part for completing the Aqaba segment of a linkage between the power grids of Jordan and Egypt.

The Jordanian-Egyptian connection will be the forerunner of the proposal for a regional network. Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Turkey have signed an agreement under which their respective networks would be linked.

## Cabinet selects team to refugee host meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday announced that Jordan will take part in a conference by Arab states hosting refugees due to open in Damascus on July 16.

The Cabinet formed a delegation to take part in the week-long meeting headed by Assem Ghosheh, head of the Palestinian affairs department.

The Cabinet also announced the appointment of Mohammad Obaidat as secretary general of the Audit Bureau. Mr. Obaidat was serving as secretary general of the Ministry of Communications and Postal Affairs.

The Council of Ministers appointed Hashem Abdul Razzaq Qudat to replace Mr. Obaidat at the ministry.

Last week the Cabinet appointed Abed Kharabsheh as head of the Audit Bureau; he was previously its secretary general.

A statement at the end of the Cabinet meeting said the council also approved of JD 30 million worth of industrial, trade and educational projects as economic projects exempt from taxes according to a law on encouraging investments.

It said the projects will employ Jordanian workforce and include food and drug industries, garment and tex-

tiles, agricultural and medical equipment.

Meanwhile, the government came under fire from several Parliament members who criticised its policies in appointing civil servants.

Meeting in the Photos Hall at Parliament, 53 deputies listened to Mohammad Thumibat, minister of state for administrative development and Abdullah Ulayyan, head of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) outline the government's policies and regulations for filling vacant positions in government departments.

Some of the deputies said they were entirely dissatisfied with the manner in which

these policies are implemented, accusing the government of being unfair in its treatment of applicants.

They presented ideas and suggestions on the process of appointments and agreed with Parliament Speaker Taher Masri and the minister that another meeting should be held to clarify some points and to put forth further proposals to help improve the system.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, some of the deputies said they wanted to meet with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to discuss new political developments.

## Minister, French envoy review economic prospects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf Saturday suggested that a mechanism be set up between French and Jordanian businesspersons to help both sides get acquainted with investment opportunities in Jordan.

Speaking during a meeting with French Ambassador Dr. Khalaf said the entire Middle East region, including Jordan, is expected to witness

major changes in the near future, which, she said, would have their impact on the economic sector.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two officials focused their discussion on tourism, agricultural inputs, plastics and fertiliser sectors, and the two sides agreed to follow up on these topics with further contacts between business sectors in France and Jordan.

The agency reported that

discussion also covered prospects for cooperation between medium-size companies in both countries in joint investments.

The meeting came in the wake of a series of visits to Jordan by French businesspersons last month during which discussion centered on joint investments.

The French side met with government officials and representatives of the Amman Chamber of Industry to re-

view ways of boosting trade and investments.

In May, Dr. Khalaf deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, in opening a Jordanian-French economic cooperation conference in Paris.

The conference resulted in the creation of a Franco-Jordanian business council which was declared in Amman last month.

## Alia Gateway Hotel posts JD 1.2m in profits in 1993

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Alia Gateway Hotel, near Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA), Saturday announced JD 1.2 million in profits for 1993.

Hotel General Manager Nazih Dabbas said that in the first three years after its establishment in 1985, the hotel suffered recurrent losses, but afterwards the facility's financial condition picked up and last year the hotel's net profits amounted to JD 1.2 million.

Between 1985 and 1987, the hotel suffered JD 705,000 in losses which were covered by profits in the subsequent years. Dr. Dabbas told the Jordan Times.

He said the hotel so far

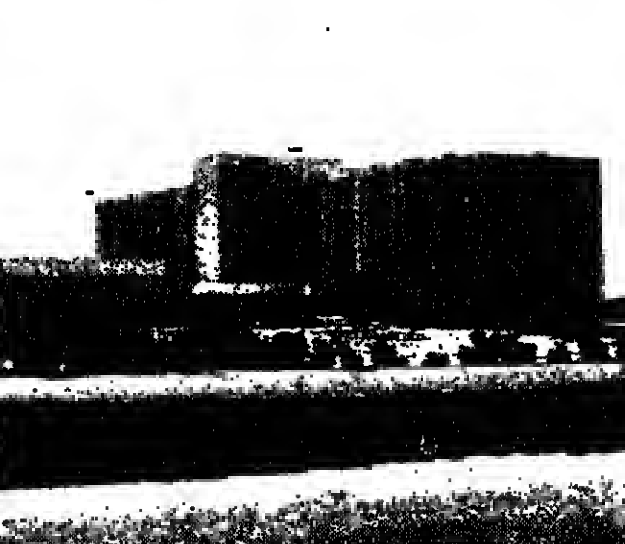
accumulated profits totalling JD 4 million, of which JD 2 million are being spent on renovating the hotel.

Dr. Dabbas said that the renovation, which started last month, will cover all sections of the facility and take a year to complete.

He said the largest portion of last year's profits were earned from revenue on accommodations for transit passengers arriving at QAIA.

Dr. Dabbas said that the hotel has accommodated a total of one million guests from its establishment until the year end 1993.

Noting that the hotel is controlled by Royal Jordanian, the national carrier, Dr. Dabbas said that 275 Jordanians are currently employed at the facility.



The Alia Gateway Hotel near Queen Alia International Airport (File photo)

## Indian exporters see good potential in Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Enough will exist among Jordanians and Indians to expand trade relations, and that is one of the keys to the search for increased business ties, visiting Indian manufacturers and exporters said Saturday.

Vincent Virmani, president of the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, (PHDCCI), said a seven-member Indian business team he is leading on a visit to Jordan got this impression from talks with Ministry of Trade and Amman Chamber of Commerce officials Saturday.

"They told us they are very much interested in increasing trade relations with India, and are ready to remove any obstacles that stand in the way," Mr. Virmani, leader of the team, told the Jordan Times.

The Indian business delegation, making the first of its kind visit to Jordan, is highly optimistic that Indian exporters can successfully compete with other suppliers to Jordan in foodstuffs, textiles and engineering products, he said.

"All things being equal in terms of price, quality and

delivery terms, we are sure that Jordanians will favour imports from India, given the excellent relations between the two countries," said Mr. Virmani, referring to the large Indian imports of Jordanian phosphates and potash.

Mr. Virmani, president of the PHDCCI, and other members of the delegation said the decline in Indian imports from Jordan in the last two years was the result of dramatic changes in the international market as well as fundamental shifts in India's import policies, but that the situation would improve soon.

Punjab, Haryana and Delhi are among the leading Indian provinces accounting for a sizeable part of the country's agriculture and industry. They are also among the richest.

The three areas also consume huge quantities of fertilisers for agriculture, and, as such, could also, directly and indirectly, help increase Indian imports of Jordanian fertiliser-related items such as phosphate and potash.

The visit of the delegation, comes at a time when fundamental shifts in Indian import and export policies have led to a sharp decline in

India's purchase of Jordanian phosphates and potash; in 1993, India's imports from Jordan totalled JD 65 million compared with nearly JD 130 million in 1991.

"Indian imports from Jordan are going to rise, and this is a reality," said T.S. Sundaram, deputy secretary general of the PHDCCI, referring to the increased role that the Indian government has given to the private sector in agricultural production where fertilizers are employed.

Samih Madani, director-general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), agreed with the assessment and said the company was highly optimistic that Indian purchases of Jordanian phosphates were going to increase next year.

Mr. Virmani and Mr. Sundaram said Indian businessmen were counting on their country's good relations with Jordan to help them gain access to other markets in the region, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as Iraq.

"Jordan is the gateway to the region," said Mr. Sundaram, noting that all members of the visiting delegation were manufacturers and exporters and not middlemen.

"Some of them are willing to look into other possibilities, but the main focus is on export of their own products," said Mr. Virmani.

Indian Ambassador to Jordan A.K. Bodhiraja said the Indian government approach to trade with Jordan was very liberal. "The objective is to expand trade ties despite the imbalance," Mr. Bodhiraja said, referring to the higher Indian imports from Jordan than exports to the Kingdom.

The ambassador said the Indian position was articulated to Jordanian officials, during the visit last month of Indian Agriculture Minister Balam Jakhar, a highly influential figure in the ruling party in New Delhi.

In a meeting with the visiting delegation on Saturday, Chamber of Commerce chief Haidar Murad also emphasised the theme and called for increased trade relations.

The delegation is scheduled to meet with Chamber of Industry representatives as well as the Jordan Businessmen Association on Sunday before leaving Jordan.

In the meantime, Jordanian businessmen are holding one-to-one meetings with the visitors, exploring possibilities.

## ny contingency

commander added, pledging their participation in future competitions.

U.S. Air Force Gen. Ronald Eggleman, commander of headquarters of U.S. Transportation Command and Commander of Air Mobility Command (AMC) at Scott Air

pointed to "the spirit of camaraderie" taking place between the two forces during the visit.

He said, with the visit, the South Korean Air Force is invited to send a team for the first time to the Air Force Academy in

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## Bosnian rivals slam latest peace plan

SARAJEVO (R) — Leaders of Bosnia's warring Serb and Muslim factions have dismissed the latest international peace plan even before its details are due to be disclosed to them in Geneva next week.

Bosnia's Muslim government said it would not accept the break-up of the country and the Bosnian Serb leadership dismissed the proposed map dividing up territory as "impossible."

While Bosnia's opposing sides slammed the peace plan drawn up by the big powers, U.S. President Bill Clinton scored a political victory when the Senate narrowly rejected an effort to order him to break the U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia so that the Muslims could better arm themselves against the Serbs. (See adjacent story).

Presidential aides said lifting the embargo would wreck peace efforts by encouraging Bosnian Muslims to fight instead.

"We believe it's a confirmation of the president's Bosnia policy," said White House spokeswoman, Dee Myers.

Referring to the peace plan, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said his government would not accept the break-up of the country and that an ultimatum from the five-nation "contact group", which drew up the document, would only prolong the war.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic on Friday also accused the mediators of trying to prolong the war by presenting Serbs with an "impossible" map of the country's ethnic division.

The plan, whose details are not yet known to the warring parties, is expected to be presented to them next week in Geneva on a take-it-or-leave-it basis, together with a package of threats and promises.

The plan envisages an ethnic carve-up under which the Muslim-Croat federation would get 51 per cent of Bosnia and the Serbs, who now hold 70 per cent, would get the rest.

"Legalising genocide and rewarding the aggressor opens the door for a long war in Bosnia," Mr. Silajdzic told

the Croatian weekly Nedjeljna Dalmacija. "We are not accepting the results of the aggression and occupation. Why should we?"

However, he added: "If the contact group comes up with something that can be talked about, we will certainly take it into consideration."

Mr. Karadzic told the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA the map was drawn "with the sole purpose that the Serbs would reject it and be blamed for the continuation of the war."

The faction leaders' manoeuvring ahead of the next round of peace talks came against a background of continued fighting on several fronts in Bosnia.

The U.N. said the Serbs had counter-attacked and retaken some ground lost in a major Muslim offensive in recent weeks.

Both sides have, when it suits them, ignored a month-long temporary truce brokered by the United Nations, which hopes to extend the ceasefire when it expires on July 9.

U.N. spokesman Com-

mander Eric Chaperon told reporters in Sarajevo Serb forces had advanced on Thursday around a strategic road running across Mount Ozren in central Bosnia.

He said Serb soldiers had not yet retaken all they had lost of the finger of Serb-held territory running south of the town of Doboj.

Heavy shelling was also reported further west near the government-held town of Buzjaci. Shelling in northern Bosnia persisted on Friday morning.

The truce was to pave the way for agreement on a long-term peace deal for the country, which hinges on both sides accepting the new map setting out Bosnia's ethnic division.

Details of the map were agreed by officials this week and are to be ratified by the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States in Geneva on July 5.

The warring parties are expected to be presented with the plan at a parallel Geneva meeting.

## Senate backs Clinton on Bosnia

WASHINGTON (R) — In a major victory for President Clinton, the Senate Friday narrowly rejected an effort to order him to break the U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia so Muslims could better fight to defend themselves.

By a vote of 50-50, the Senate turned back a proposal to write the order into a \$263 billion defence authorization bill for next year. A tie vote is a defeat in the Senate.

The Senate approved the bill by voice vote. House-Senate negotiators must now work out a compromise of the House of Representatives' defence bill version, for Congress's approval.

The House had voted 244-178 to order Mr. Clinton to break the embargo. Senate approval and then final approval by Congress would have forced Mr. Clinton to either veto the defence bill or lift the arms embargo.

Mr. Clinton and his top aides lobbied senators by telephone to reject the order. They said lifting the embargo would shatter current peace efforts by encouraging Bos-

nian Muslims to fight instead. "We believe it's a confirmation of the president's Bosnia policy," White House spokeswoman Dee Myers said.

Before the Senate vote, Democratic leader George Mitchell told the chamber: "If the embargo is lifted, the war will inevitably widen. There will be many more deaths, much more ethnic cleansing, and it will then be an American war."

"The British and French have made it clear that if this passes, they are going to pull their forces out," he said.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, said the United Nations and allied would be unlikely to help the United States halt North Korea's nuclear programme if America defied the U.N. arms embargo.

But supporters of lifting the embargo said the United States has a moral obligation to arm the Bosnian Muslims to defend themselves because it is unwilling to send U.S. troops to defend them.

"If we are not to defend

the Bosnians from aggression and wanton killing, it is morally wrong to deny them the means to defend themselves," Senator Strom Thurmond, a South Carolina Republican, said.

Senate Republicans leader Bob Dole said the Bosnian Muslims want to arm themselves and fight rather than accept the peace plan proposed by the United States, Russia, Britain, and France.

In other action on the bill, the Senate:

— Approved 55-45, \$150 million to keep alive the option of building more than the 20 B-2 stealth bombers now planned.

— Rejected 50-50, an effort to terminate peacetime draft registration system.

— Approved 88-12, a \$376 million increase in military retirement to put it in line with civilian pension levels.

— Voted by voice to resolve a marine corps-army dispute over tanks by requiring the army national guard to give 84 of its tanks to the marines, but also require the army to replenish army national guard stocks with 84 other tanks.

## U.S. immigration official arrested for selling green cards

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A top immigration official in northern California was arrested for allegedly selling residency visas known as green cards, authorities said Friday.

William Malcolm Tait, 45, was arrested in Texas on Thursday, said Anthony Odom, chief deputy U.S. marshal in Dallas. Mr. Tait was deputy assistant director in the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) office in San Francisco, but had been on temporary assignment in Dallas for the past month.

Philip Waters, who heads the INS office in San Francisco, said the arrest caught him by surprise. "It was totally out of the blue," said Mr. Waters, who acknowledged Mr. Tait had control over issuing residency visas in his San Francisco job. The San Francisco Examiner reported Friday that Justice Department investigators believe Mr. Tait made from \$300,000 to \$1 million in the scheme. Starting in 1983, he allegedly helped one San Francisco-area man obtain 15 cards for sale bypassing normal INS controls. That man is now cooperating with authorities, the Examiner reported.

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## Taple lawyers hit at police surveillance

PARIS (AFP) — Legal writs will start flying Monday over the police surveillance of French businessman and politician Bernard Taple before his arrest last week, his lawyers said here. In a statement issued late Friday they said no magistrate had requested the close-range watch on Mr. Taple's luxury Paris home using microphone and infra-red cameras before his parliamentary immunity from prosecution was lifted last Tuesday. Mr. Taple was dragged from his bed by police at dawn Wednesday and charged with serious fraud, including misuse of company assets and tax evasion. The lawyers also complained that a tap had been ordered on the telephone of Mr. Taple's daughter Natalee even though she had nothing to do with the charges against her father.

## Rare early printed books from German castle sold in London

LONDON (AP) — Early printed books from one of the great aristocratic collections in Europe sold for more than £3 million (\$4.5 million) on Friday. New York dealers H.P. Kraus bought the four top-priced lots of the collection owned by the Fürstenberg family of Germany and sold by Sotheby's auction house in London. The 300 works came from the court library in the family castle at Donaueschingen where two streams meet in the Black Forest to form the source of the River Danube. The head of the family, Joachim Prinz zu Fürstenberg, also sold many manuscripts and books from the library in 1982 and again last year. American, German and other European book dealers and collectors crowded the saleroom Friday. German universities, museums, libraries and town archives were prominent among the purchasers of the incunabula — books issued from the start of the printing in Germany in the 1400s up to 1500. The sale realised £3,217,532 (\$4,454,990). Kraus paid £221,500 (\$341,110) each for two items. One was the only surviving copy of the first datable piece of printing in Vienna, a single-sheet calendar for 1462 showing supposedly good and bad days for letting blood and taking medicines and purgatives. Blood-letting calendars were commonly put up on a wall for quick consultation and then discarded when a year passed, so few of them survived. This one was torn in half and used as the pasted down endpapers of a book. It was discovered in the 19th century when the no longer identifiable book was taken apart in a search for old manuscripts. Kraus paid a similar sum for a little book of 26 woodblock prints about a battle between devils and angels for the soul of a man on his deathbed, printed in the 1470s. Kraus also paid £177,500 (\$273,350) for a 1477 illustrated poem on the death of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, who was slain in a siege in France earlier that year, and £155,500 (\$239,470) for a 1477 printing of the German epic poem, "Parzival".

## French send more troops to southern Rwanda

GOMA, Zaire (R) — France sent a large number of troops on Friday to reinforce its military strength in southern Rwanda where hundreds of terrified civilians remain threatened by pro-government militia.

The move came after the French deployed under "Operation Turquoise" evacuated 94 wounded Rwandan civilians to its main base in eastern Zaire.

In Brussels, the medical charity Medicins Sans Frontières (MSF) said an unidentified helicopter in rebel-held southern Rwanda fired on a vehicle belonging to the organisation on Friday.

A French military spokesman said he did not have the exact number of reinforcements dispatched from the base Goma, Zaire, to the southwestern town of Kibuye but described it as "a large force."

More than 1,500 French and 40 Senegalese troops are taking part in the Rwanda operation and more troops and equipment arriving this week are expected to bring the force to its full strength of 2,500.

As world of their presence

spread across the tiny Central African nation, hundreds of terrified civilians mainly from the minority Tutsi tribe are emerging from their hiding places and heading for safety under French protection.

Those coming out of the bushes are survivors of a wave of massacres that erupted in Rwanda after President Juvénal Habyarimana was killed in a plane crash on April 6.

Aid workers say many as 500,000 people and more may have been killed by pro-government militia.

On Thursday, a total of 94 wounded Rwandans were evacuated by French helicopters from the district of Bisesero, about 25 km south of Kibuye, to Goma.

Asked whether all were members of Rwanda's Tutsi minority, a French military spokesman told Reuters: "All are humans and that is what matters."

But military sources said virtually all were Tutsis. The Tutsis and Hutu government opponents have borne the brunt of the killings by the Hutu militia.

He said he expected more casualties to be evacuated on Friday from the area around Bisesero, where French troops are protecting hundreds of Tutsis from attack by militia.

U.N. officials said the evacuation of Tutsis, the first since France's intervention began last week, would test relations between French forces deployed in government-held western Rwanda and the local Hutu population which had welcomed them as saviours.

Paris has traditionally backed the Rwandan government, which has been forced to abandon large swathes of territory in the civil war.

The French insist they are on a humanitarian mission to help both Tutsis and Hutus loyal to the government and will avoid conflict with either side.

The rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) initially vowed to fight French forces as invaders, saying the operation was a bid to block rebel forces from defeating government troops in their western stronghold.

However RPF officials have said they are not opposed to the French operation as long as it remains purely humanitarian.

Mystery surrounds the identity of a helicopter that fired on an MSF vehicle deep inside RPF-held area on Friday.

"The helicopter fired what we think were two shells — one of them landed in the bush and another exploded in a tree just in front of the vehicle, splitting the tree in half," MSF's Dr. Pierre Harze told Reuters by satellite telephone from Rwanda.

Dr. Harze said a Rwandan MSF staff member and his companion travelling in the car were not hurt in the attack, which took place about 10 km from the southern town of Nyamata in the Bugesera area.

"There was no other vehicle on the road and the helicopter was travelling very low when it attacked the car."

The doctor said the car had the medical charity's stickers pasted all over it as well as an MSF flag.

"It was clearly an aid agency vehicle," he said.

There has been no comment from either the RPF or the interim government based in the north-western city of Gisenyi.

## Kohl to pressure Major to accept Dehaene

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will bring heavy pressure next week on British Prime Minister John Major to accept Jean-Luc Dehaene as the next head of the European Commission, the German and Luxembourg foreign ministers said here after talks Friday.

Mr. Major vetoed Mr. Dehaene, the Belgian prime minister, at last month's Corfu summit of the European Union, saying he would never accept him because of his federalist views.

Mr. Kohl, whose country took over the rotating EU presidency Friday from Greece, has called a special summit in Brussels for July 15 to resolve the matter.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said here that Bonn had no other candidate but Mr. Dehaene to succeed Commission president Jacques Delors on January 1.

"We must find a consensus, and for that rally John Major to the candidacy of Jean-Luc Dehaene," he said.

Mr. Kinkel acknowledged however that Mr. Major had repeated his opposition to Mr. Dehaene when they met Thursday in London.

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said Mr. Kohl would be telephoning all European leaders next week to try to achieve a consensus.

"Mr. Dehaene must be nominated unanimously, and for that we must bend John Major," Mr. Poos said. "Mr. Kohl will apply pressure on this occasion. Perhaps he has a secret weapon up his sleeve."

Mr. Dehaene, while eventually backed by all 11 other EU members in Corfu, admitted Friday that in the face of the British veto his chances of winning the post were now minimal, though he said he would not withdraw.

However he told the Belgian parliament that a consensus was the priority, even if it meant a new candidate.

Meanwhile, Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers said in an interview published in The Hague that he had maintained his candidacy up to the Corfu summit to protest at the May 30 decision by Mr. Kohl and French President François Mitterrand to back Mr. Dehaene.

He told the Dutch daily NRC Handelsblad that he had encountered resistance from Mr. Kohl the moment his candidacy was announced, and said his relations with the German chancellor had suffered as a result.

Antipathy to the "Francophone German axis" was a factor in Major's veto, as well as opposition from Eurosceptics in his Conservative Party at home.

## Murayama gets thumbs down from Japanese

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's first socialist prime minister in 47 years, Tomiichi Murayama, woke up to the harsh fact Saturday that he does not have the backing of the Japanese people.

Two opinion polls published by the Yomiuri Shimbun and Sankei newspapers carried out among 1,500 eligible voters, showed that only 37 per cent gave him their backing.

His predecessor Tsutomu Hata had a 56.8 per cent backing when he was sworn in in April.

The polls revealed a public clearly disaffected of the marriage of convenience he has made between his own Social Democratic Party and the former ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the New Party Sakigake.

The Sankei poll showed that 55.3 per cent of Japanese did not want Mr. Murayama and his cabinet while the Yomiuri survey found 44 per cent disapproved.

Some members of Mr. Murayama's own party have criticised their leader for entering into an alliance which they see as a virtual political pact with the devil.

The 70-year-old prime minister flies to Naples, Italy, next week for a meeting with other leaders of the world's seven leading industrialised nations.

He does so without public endorsement for his policies and in the knowledge that his G7 partners will be wondering just how long his unlikely coalition will last in Japan's current fevered political climate.

In his inaugural press conference Friday, Mr. Murayama acknowledged that the public at home and abroad were worried about

his coalition's staying power but said he would work to make people feel "secure" about the new government.

As he outlined his government's policies, Mr. Murayama appeared to be abandoning many long-held socialist party positions in favour of those of the LDP, which holds a majority of posts in the new cabinet.

On the North Korean nuclear issue he said there would be no change in Japan's policy which to date has largely supported the U.S. stance in the standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions.

The Socialist party has long had friendly relations with North Korea.

He also pledged the use of Japanese military in non-military United Nations peacekeeping operations, reversing his own position on the issue.

Mr. Murayama also promised not to delay implementation of an electoral reform bill, legislation which has brought previous governments to their knees, due in part to the opposition of the LDP which sees a threat to its own political fortunes.

But the immediate issue, for the new administration is the surge in the value of the yen. Mr. Murayama has promised "utmost efforts" to stabilise exchange rates and hopes the issue will come up in Naples next week.

New Finance Minister Masuyoshi Takemura would have liked to see "quick measures" taken before the summit but admitted there were none around.

"The only answer now is for appropriate and timely actions, including market intervention and international cooperation," he said.

## Attacks against U.N. forces at their highest

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Attacks against U.N. forces in Bosnia this week reached their highest level in four months, a U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman said here Saturday.

There were seven reported attacks on Friday, none of them resulting in any U.N. casualties, bringing the total to 39 for this week, said French Naval Commander Eric Chaperon. U.N. forces did not return fire.

A much-fought ceasefire, which was to have lasted one month, has technically been in effect since June 10.

In the Sarajevo sector, a British liaison officer was shot at and a British army vehicle also came under fire when it wandered into a fire-fight on Mount Igman.

In Zepce, a Muslim-controlled area to the south of the Ozren mountains where much of the recent Muslim-Serb fighting has been taking place, a British camp was targeted by several rounds of small arms.

In Gorazde, in the eastern Muslim-held enclave, an observation post where a British soldier was killed last week, twice came under fire during the day.

And in Vukovar, central Bosnia, a Canadian observation post twice came under sniper fire from a suspected Muslim fighter.

Meanwhile, Friday night was reported to have been mostly calm, except for the northern corridor of Brcko, where U.N. monitors counted 110 heavy weapon detonations in a sector east of Gradacac.

It was not known who was doing the firing, but Muslim Bosnian forces have been increasing pressure on the Serb-held corridor which links their western and eastern territories in Bosnia.

Fighting between Muslim-led and Serb forces also continued in the Ozren Mountain area with successful counter-attacks by the Serbs, and there were renewed clashes south of Buzjaci, in central Bosnia.

In the western Bilac pocket, where Muslim government forces are battling Muslim autonomists at a time when both groups are surrounded by Serb separatists, there was heavy mortaring of the Pledgrad area and reports of numerous government casualties.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jiang Zemin reaffirms Communist Party control over military

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin has reaffirmed, for the second time in three weeks, that the Chinese Communist Party has absolute power over the military. In a speech Friday delivered in the presence of high-level People's Liberation Army (PLA) officials in Beijing on the 73rd anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party, Mr. Jiang said: "The Chinese military is under the direct management of the Communist Party." The speech by Mr. Jiang, who is also party secretary-general, was quoted at length on the front page of the official People's Daily and other major newspapers. "The party organisations within the PLA play a vital role," said Mr. Jiang, who is also the chief of the military. "In the new period, particular attention must be paid to the study of Deng Xiaoping's theories on socialism with Chinese characteristics and on building the military," he said. This is the second time in three weeks that the likely successor of Deng Xiaoping, who will be 90 in August, has insisted that the military must be loyal to the communist party in the "new period." On June 6, he made a similar speech during the unusual promotion of 19 PLA officers to the rank of general, which brought to 42 the number of generals in the Chinese military. The increasingly frequent use by Mr. Jiang of the expression "new period" means that for some communist leaders the post-Deng era has already begun, political observers said. The decline in the patriarch's health in the last year has seen Mr. Jiang try to reinforce, as quickly as possible, his control over the military so as to have its unequivocal support for him to succeed Mr. Deng and remain in power.

### New nominee for U.S. Forces Pacific commander

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton has nominated Vice Adm. Richard Macke, director of the joint staff, to the post of four-star admiral and commander in chief of U.S. Forces in the Pacific, the Pentagon said Friday. The move came one week after the navy withdrew the name of the previous nominee, Adm. Stanley R. Arthur, after objections arose in Congress over his handling of a sexual harassment case. Adm. Macke, a three-star admiral, had been nominated to take Adm. Arthur's place as the No. 2 admiral in the navy, and the process of congressional approval had already begun for that post. One reason navy officials cited for withdrawing Adm. Arthur's name was the potential delay in filling the Pacific post at a time of tension with North Korea over its potential nuclear arsenal. Adm. Macke, 56, is a veteran of more than 150 combat missions in Vietnam, and once served as commander of the aircraft carrier USS Dwight Eisenhower. Sen. David Durenberger said he threatened to place a bold on Adm. Arthur's required Senate confirmation because of a sexual harassment case involving a navy officer from Minnesota. Mr. Durenberger's sister, Lt. Rebecca Hansen, 28, filed the complaint last year against her instructor during helicopter flight training in Corpus Christi, Texas. The officer was disciplined and later left the navy. But in the meantime, Lt. Hansen was ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation. She later failed at the navy helicopter pilot school in Pensacola, Florida. Adm. Arthur reviewed the failing grade and affirmed the decision last April. Mr. Durenberger didn't object to Adm. Arthur's decision but questioned the navy response to his questions about why Lt. Hansen has been put through psychiatric evaluation, said aide Rick Evans. Mr. Durenberger was also concerned that the navy had not adequately explored the possibility that her failing grade was tied to her filing the sexual harassment complaint. The navy's action raised eyebrows among many senior officers, who delivered Adm. Arthur, a noted leader in the U.S. effort in the Gulf war, had been treated unfairly. Defence Secretary William Perry said he had chosen not to intervene on Adm. Arthur's behalf.

### More Pakistani troops leave for Bosnia duty

ISLAMABAD (R) — Two hundred more Pakistani troops have left to join U.N. peacekeeping operations in war-torn Bosnia, an army spokesman said on Saturday. He said the 200 troops, who left on Friday, would go directly to Bosnia without the customary two-weeks' training in the Slovak Republic given to the 600 soldiers in the previous two detachments of Pakistani troops already there. Pakistan, which has offered a total of 3,000 troops to U.N. forces in Muslim-dominated Bosnia, is one of a number of countries with large Muslim populations which have sent troops to U.N. peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslav republic.

### Taiwan sentences second officer in arms scandal

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's military court has sentenced a second military officer in a growing scandal over arms procurement that has already toppled the island's navy chief, the Defence Ministry said on Saturday. Kuo Yi-Chung, a language training officer, received seven years in prison on Friday for leaking classified military documents to arms dealer Chang Chia-Cheng, one of 10 Taiwanese arms dealers indicted in the scandal, a ministry statement said. Fourteen generals have been punished administratively in the scandal and nine officers have been indicted. Kuo was the second navy officer to be sentenced. A navy commander was given life imprisonment last month. Taiwan launched a probe into its arms procurement policy following the murder of Yin Chio-Fung, 48, chief secretary of the navy's Procurement Office. Yin is believed to have been murdered because he was about to reveal bribes paid for the awarding of weapons contracts. His killers have not been identified.

### 'Ending church-state link threatens constitution'

LONDON (AFP) — Moves to separate church and state would be "difficult and dangerous" and could jeopardise the entire British constitution, including the monarchy, the Archbishop of York warned in The Times Saturday. Archbishop John Habgood, the second most senior figure in the Church of England, was responding to speculation that the Prince of Wales might wish to become head of the church on becoming king. "The prince said recently that he preferred the title 'Defender of the Faith' to 'Defender of the Faith' — the established Church of England — introduced by Henry VIII. Archbishop Habgood said it would require parliamentary approval to amend the coronation oath, in which the sovereign pledges to maintain "the Protestant reformed religion established by law" and declares "I am a faithful Protestant." This might lead to "a situation which could become uncontrollable in terms of what might happen in parliament. This is why it would be a difficult and dangerous thing to start tampering with it because in the process of picking out some threats you do not know what else will unravel." Archbishop Habgood said that major constitutional issues, such as the union between England and Scotland, could be at risk and added: "The worst that might happen would be the rejection of the monarchy itself." In a much-publicised interview broadcast earlier this week, the prince also said of Wales had broke down. But Archbishop said this did not affect his eligibility to be supreme governor of the Church of England.

### Moderate earthquake jolts Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — A moderate earthquake measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale jolted northern Japan Saturday, the Meteorological Agency said. The epicentre of the quake, which struck shortly before 8 a.m. (2300 GMT), was in Hokkaido Prefecture, the agency said, adding that there was no fear that the tremor had triggered a Tsunami tidal wave.

## U.N. Council calls for genocide inquiry

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council on Friday called for a commission of experts to investigate genocide and atrocities in Rwanda, paving the way for a possible war crimes tribunal.

More than 200,000 people, mostly Tutsi civilians, are estimated to have been killed in politically motivated ethnic violence by government forces, paramilitary and pro-Hutu militia.

The 15-nation council voted unanimously to request the secretary general to urgently establish a commission to investigate reports of genocide and other violations of international humanitarian law.

In four months, he would report on its conclusions and make recommendations about further action. This could mean establishment of a tribunal to try those accused of genocide and other crimes, though the council did not specifically mention creation of a tribunal.

"We think this will clear the way for a war crimes tribunal and we welcome it," said Claude Dusadi, spokesman for the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front.

Rwanda, a council member, voted in favour of the resolution, but made no comment.

The council already established a war crimes inquiry commission and tribunal for war crimes in Bosnia and Croatia.

Spain spearheaded the effort to pass the resolution and was joined by Argentina, Britain, the Czech Republic, France, New Zealand and the United States.

"We want a complete and detailed account and want to bring to justice those responsible for the atrocities," Spanish Ambassador Juan Antonio

Yanez-Barnuevo said later. He added that France would cooperate in providing information from its humanitarian intervention.

Last week the Security Council authorised France to deploy a 2-month humanitarian mission in Rwanda to save civilians from atrocities being committed by both sides.

French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee told the council that for months the world has heard of systematic violations of human rights in Rwanda.

"This has aroused the indignation of the entire world and it is intolerable for the perpetrators to remain unpunished. The international community demands that those who have committed these atrocities be held accountable," he said.

U.S. Ambassador Edward W. Gnehm, deputy U.N. envoy, told the council: "We can transform revenge into justice, affirm the rule of law and hopefully bring this horrible cycle of violence to a merciful close."

Chinese Ambassador Li Zhaoxing expressed reservations about the resolution and the increasing involvement of the Council in human rights matters which are entrusted to other U.N. bodies.

The Chinese delegation holds that establishing the commission of experts in this resolution is an exceptional action...and should not be considered a precedent.

China is sensitive about criticism of its own human rights record in Tibet and its suppression of political dissidents at home, arguing that international community should respect its sovereignty and not meddle in its internal affairs.



Rwandan Tutsi refugees from the Besero village, west of Rwanda east military rations at the Goma airport in Zaire (AFP photo)

## 16 dead, 20 wounded in rebel shelling

KIGALI (AFP) — Rwandan rebels fired three shells into the government-held Kigali market on Saturday killing 16 people and wounding about 20 others, witnesses and hospital sources said.

The shells crashed into the market around 0730 GMT, at a time when it was crowded with shoppers, the witnesses said.

Several of those wounded were in serious condition when they arrived at the overcrowded hospital run by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The hospital is also in government-held territory.

Fighting between the mainly Tutsi rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and the Hutu-led government forces picked up during the night and sporadic shelling

persisted on Saturday in the Rwandan capital.

An estimated 200,000 to 500,000 people, most of them members of the minority Tutsi tribe, are estimated to have been slaughtered in the tribal warfare which broke out on April 6, following the suspicious death of the Rwandan president in a plane crash.

On Friday, the U.N. Security Council voted to create a commission to investigate alleged acts of genocide in Rwanda, a move that could lead to the creation of an international tribunal.

The U.N. Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) said Saturday it was halting food aid to homeless people in Kigali because it was running low on supplies, as the capital's airport is closed and stocks must be transported by

truck from Entebbe airport in neighbouring Uganda.

"We only have a small reserve which we are keeping for emergencies," said the UNAMIR military spokesman, Major Jean-Guy Plante. "We are waiting for a green light from the RPF to open the airport."

Rebel Tutsi forces had opened fire on two planes flying over Kigali Thursday and banned use of the runway, which lies in RPF-held territory, because of fears that French troops currently engaged in a humanitarian mission in the south-east will be airlifted into the capital.

The RPF, which currently holds more than half the country, accuses France of supplying and training the mainly Hutu government and army and suspects it of being ready to airlift troops to the government's aid.

Maj. Plante said UNAMIR was also negotiating with government forces to restart the evacuation of the homeless, prisoners of war and potential hostages.

"We have the green light from the RPF (for this) but we are having coordination problems with the government forces," said Maj. Plante.

Meanwhile Saturday, some 250 French troops began deploying around Kihuye, in western Rwanda on Lake Kivu, a Feoh military spokesman said.

The soldiers who left Goma, Zaire, on Friday, were to relieve commandos who had been protecting about 800 Tutsi refugees in Gyshtya.

## Fighting resumes in troubled township

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Gun battles between longtime antagonists in the Tokoza black township killed four people Saturday before a funeral for four people killed in a previous attack.

The shooting began after midnight — reportedly with an attack on a house that killed two people — and continued through the morning, according to residents and a military spokesman.

Army troops patrolled the area and conducted house-to-house searches after daylight, but sporadic gunfire continued.

A spokesman at Natal's Hospital on the township border confirmed two people had died and four others were being treated for bullet wounds. Journalists saw two other bodies in the streets.

The violence pitted residents of a workers dormitory against people living nearby, including members of local militias set up by the African National Congress as self-defence units.

An attack last week on a house near the Inkatha-dominated hostel killed four youths believed to have been linked to the ANC militia in Tokoza, southeast of Johannesburg. It occurred the night before a planned peace meeting of all such militia or protection groups in the region, and officials said the attack appeared intended to undermine the meeting.

The fighting caused most people to stay away from the funeral Saturday of the four killed in last week's attack.

ANC fighting caused most people to stay away from the funeral Saturday of the four killed in last week's attack.

government, while Inkatha finished third and won enough votes for some cabinet seats in President Nelson Mandela's unity government.

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ANC gunmen fired their automatic rifles in the air when the four coffins arrived at a church up the road from the fighting, then returned to their battle positions instead of joining about 25 people inside the church.

Despite the relative calm nationwide since the vote, criminal violence and some political fighting have occurred in some squalid townships. Deep-seated animosity between rival groups in Tokoza and other places was unlikely to dissipate quickly, despite peace efforts by the new ANC-led government.

Some of the militia groups have become criminal gangs in their areas operating outside the control of the ANC or other groups that founded them.

## Li Peng defends Tiananmen

VIENNA (AFP) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng on Friday defended the bloody repression of the pro-democracy movement on Tiananmen Square in 1989 as "inevitable" to guarantee the nation's stability.

Mr. Li, who ends his official visit to Austria on Sunday, said in an interview with the Austrian news agency APA: "In 10 or 20 years you will see that these measures were inevitable to guarantee the stability of China and peace in the world, and that we were forced to take them."

Meanwhile various groups in Vienna continued to protest Mr. Li's visit. The Greens strongly criticised the human rights situation in China and denounced the Austrian government's ban on demonstrations against Mr. Li's visit.

Liberal Forum spokesman, Friedhelm Frischenschlager, said: "Li Peng must not think that Austrian men and women are indifferent to the fact that 70 per cent of capital punishments in the world take place in China."

Mr. Li, who on Friday met parliamentary president Heinz Fischer in his hotel instead of at the parliament building as originally planned, told APA that "history will judge (Tiananmen) and has already done so."

He added: "We had to take these measures. We did not want to. Without these measures China would have faced a situation worse than in the former Soviet Union or Eastern Europe."

Mr. Fischer said he had gone to Mr. Li's hotel to "facilitate" things and to avoid giving an opportunity

"to those seeking confrontation."

Questioned by APA as to the many arrests and executions in China, Mr. Li stressed that "China is a legal state with a constitution and an independent judiciary" whose laws the Chinese government respects.

Robert Francan, an Amnesty International official in Austria, noted that 2,564 people had been sentenced to death in China in 1993, of which 1,419 had been executed. "These are the highest figures ever recorded by Amnesty International," he said.

The president of the Liberal Forum, Heide Schmidt, told journalists that she was upset at the Austrian government's ban on demonstrations against Mr. Li's visit.

Mr. Li, meanwhile, added that he considered it a "success" that China has managed strong economic growth while maintaining political stability.

"China will pursue its political and economic reforms but will take the country's specific circumstances into account and will not imitate the West," the premier said. "China will not follow the example of the Soviet Union which tried to introduce reform in 500 days," he said.

## 'Russia launches plan to up powers of CSCE'

VIENNA (AFP) — Russia launched a diplomatic initiative to increase the powers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) across the region covered by its 53 member countries, diplomatic sources have said.

The move came in a letter from Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev to his Italian counterpart, Antonio Martino, various diplomatic sources here told AFP.

In the letter Mr. Kozyrev told Mr. Martino, who is also CSCE president, that the organisation must take responsibility for keeping peace and reinforcing democracy and stability in its membership region that covers territory from Valdivostok to Vancouver.

According to the head of the Russian diplomatic team, the role of the CSCE as partner to the United Nations for resolving regional conflicts should be strengthened.

Under the proposals, Moscow aims to transform the CSCE into an international organisation with its own charter and an efficient decision-making process. Mr. Kozyrev envisages a sort of U.N.-style security council for the CSCE, to be called the "executive committee," the sources said.

The committee would have no more than 10 members, some of which would be permanent and others appointed in rotation. Decisions would be made unanimously and have the

same power as those of the Council of ministers of the CSCE.

Russia has expressed its wish to see a larger role for the CSCE many times, most recently last month, when it signed up to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) partnership for peace programme.

The programme provides for closer cooperation between NATO and former Warsaw Pact countries, without giving the latter membership of the Atlantic alliance, which is currently the region's leading multinational military body.

But the letter marked the first time Russia has put detailed proposals in writing, said the sources.

According to the letter, these new proposals should be contained in a "major political declaration" which will be adopted by the summit of the heads of state of the CSCE.

Moscow suggested a "division of labour" between the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Western European Union — the EU's military wing — in which the CSCE would play a coordinating role.

## Guinea-Bissau prepares for first-ever free election

BISSAU (AFP) — The people of Guinea-Bissau are preparing to go to the polls Sunday to choose a president and new parliament, in their first-ever free national election since independence 20 years ago.

On the eve of polling Saturday campaigners had returned to Bissau for a show of force in the capital, where a quarter of the West African country's 400,000 registered voters — half the total population — have their home.

Huge posters of the eight presidential candidates hung along the main roads and cars decked out in different party colours criss-crossed the city as rallies heightened the party atmosphere.

The excitement was tinged with anxiety, however, at the headquarters of the National Electoral Commission which is concerned about the logistical problems of distributing voting papers, booths and ballot boxes in the mud of the early rainy season.

In some voting centres, material would arrive only by Saturday or Sunday morning, one commission member told AFP.

Some 100 international observers from Brazil, Canada, France, Portugal and Sweden, and from other African countries were already installed in the former Portuguese colony.

## Macedonia embargo still on

SKOPIJE (AFP) — Macedonia's President Kiro Gligorov warned Friday of serious consequences arising from the refusal of the European Court of Justice to order the immediate lifting of the Greek trade embargo on his country.

The court refused last week to rule on the case, brought by the European Commission, saying it wanted to study the matter in depth, but Mr. Gligorov said the expected delay of up to two years before a definitive ruling was too long.

The result could be a destabilisation of Macedonia, bringing about a war in the former Yugoslav republic which might drag in neighbouring countries, he warned.

Mr. Gligorov called on Greece's European partners to put pressure on Athens to end the embargo imposed five months ago. He did not specify how but noted that the European Union gave enormous financial aid to

guese colony to supervise the electoral process and help ensure fairness.

The authorities want to prove to the world that Guinea-Bissau democracy is not a "stuttering baby," sources here say.

The incumbent president Joao Bernardo Vieira, in power since a coup in November 1980, is standing for the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde (PAIGC), the only legal party until recently.

Mr. Vieira is being challenged by seven different candidates and diplomats based here say he may benefit from the divisions besetting the opposition.

The challengers are former premier Victor Saude Maria, former PAIGC member Kumba Yalla, businessman Carlos Domingos, opposition figure Mendy Kankolla, Domingos Fernandes of the Bah-Fatah Movement, lawyer Antonieta Rosa Gomes and Buhacar Djalo, candidate for the opposition coalition "Union for Change."

In the parliamentary poll 1,136 candidates representing eight parties are fighting for 100 seats in the national assembly, which has existed before with only indirectly elected representatives.

By refusing to allow goods to and from landlocked Macedonia to pass through its ports Greece aims to force its neighbour to change the country's name, flag and constitution.

Athens says it should have exclusive use on the "Greek" symbols on the Macedonian flag and on the name of Macedonia, borne by Greece's northern province, and accuses Skopje of expansionist aims.

Mr. Gligorov said he was prepared to discuss all the points at issue, but accused Greece of continually setting preconditions. He dismissed the accusations of territorial ambitions by his country as absurd, saying it had practically no army.

He also questioned if it was reasonable to demand a change in the name of a country or people.

Mr. Gligorov said there was already trouble on Macedonia's border with Serbia.



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## Logic to border talks

THERE IS logic to the agreement between Jordan and Israel on moving negotiations on their border dispute to the area. Having decided to enter into serious negotiations on border demarcation, the two countries, by doing business as close as possible to the geographic areas around which the talks centre, could make them more realistic and fail safe. The bitter memories of past border issues between the two sides remain vivid in the minds of many Jordanians. During the Rhodes armistice talks many errors were committed simply because the venue of the negotiations was far removed from the geographic areas affected by them. Moreover, the negotiations between the two delegations would become so much more promising when held in the vicinity of the disputed frontiers. Suffice it to recall that whenever there are genuine controversies about any dimension of the border talks, a visit to the territory would no doubt shed additional light on which way the talks should be heading. It is one thing to examine border matters in abstractum and quite another to do it on the ground. Besides, there are no more justifications for the continuation of the complexes about dealing with Israel straight in the face and in the most forward manner possible. But having said that, the Jordanian delegation must continue to be wary about the real Israeli intentions of drawing the international border on their own terms. It is common knowledge that Israel does not offer anything or reject anything unless there is an ulterior motive behind it. Consequently, border rectification or adjustment between the two countries must be studied with maximum attention and care.

Perhaps it would be far-fetched to include parliament in the process of such negotiations but any changes on Jordan's historic borders must get the blessing of the people through a parliamentary process.

Then there is always the border issue between Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule area. It is doubtful that the bilateral Israeli-Jordanian border talks can be conducted in isolation from the Palestinian side as well, since the Palestinian self-rule territory would conceivably touch the international border line between Palestine during the British mandate and Jordan. The inter connection between Jordanian and Palestinian territorial interests makes it incumbent on Israel to deal with the two parties concurrently. Granted that the Palestinian self-rule course has yet to acquire definitive shape or form, still the parties concerned need to put before them as well the impact of any future agreement on any Palestinian boundary lines in the region.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH THE return of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to his homeland, the Palestinians have taken the first step towards regaining their homeland and establishing their statehood, said Al Rai daily Saturday. The Palestinians have suffered for a long time and the forces of evil and aggression have joined forces in conspiracies against them for so many years, said the daily. Since the beginning of the 20th century, the Palestinians have been suffering from Israeli occupation for 27 years, with many of them living in camps after having been displaced from their hometowns, said the paper. In the face of the atrocities committed daily by the Israeli authorities, the Palestinians had no alternative but to resort to armed struggle to ensure their freedom, said the daily. The daily also watched the Palestinian leadership home their leaders who felt proud of the sacrifices they offered to achieve liberation, and our spirits rose with the flustering of the Palestinian flags hung everywhere in Palestinian lands, the paper continued. The enthusiastic welcome accorded to Mr. Arafat reflects the Palestinian people's yearning for peace and stability in their homeland, said the paper. It said Mr. Arafat's return could make the beginning of the long march towards independence.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour urged Jordanian political parties to do more than talk for helping end the U.N. imposed sanctions against Iraq. Taher Al Adwan said that many of Jordan's parties have some sort of connection with Syria, which is in a position to influence Arab Gulf states and other countries into ending the embargo on Iraq. Syria has great influence within the Arab League and has long borders with Iraq, which remain closed for more than 10 years. But if the relations were strained between Damascus and Baghdad over side issues, they ought to improve under the present situation, which requires a show of solidarity between Arab people in the two countries, especially as the Iraqi face starvation and continued sufferings, said the

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

### The peace dividend; what not to expect

THE ECONOMIC impact of peace on Jordan will definitely be positive, but we should not exaggerate the benefits or expect too much. Some factors will place limitations on most economic benefits that may accrue to Jordan as a result of peace with Israel.

The economic benefits of peace that are usually pointed out are the results of: The flow of foreign investments, the access to the West Bank market, the freedom of movement of labour and capital, the recovery of a fair share of the water of Yarmouk and Jordan rivers and the boom in tourism.

As far as foreign investments are concerned, little is expected due to the heavy external indebtedness amounting to some \$7 billion, forming 134 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). The limit for creditworthiness of a country is generally agreed to be less than 75 per cent of its GDP. Under the circumstances, foreign investors may not like to come in unless Jordanian indebtedness was somehow reduced to below the level of 75 per cent of GDP, which means that at least \$3 billion of Jordanian debts should be written off to make Jordan attractive to prudent foreign direct investors. Will peace bring about this debt reduction? It is a question which is still open for speculation. U.S. President Bill Clinton's commitment to extend debt relief to Jordan is too vague to be convincing to foreign investors.

The growth of trade and exports to the new growing markets of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is severely limited by harsh barriers imposed by Israel as expressed in the recent economic accord, reached in Paris on April 29, between Israel and the PLO. This means that Jordan should renegotiate these limitations with Israel with a view to obtaining full access to the West Bank market on equal basis with Israeli access. But will Jordan succeed in this endeavour? This is another question which remains open for the time being.

It is not yet known which direction will the movement of labour and capital through the bridges take. Will a large number of people and displaced families take up the

opportunity to return to the West Bank and Gaza? Some analysts suggest that the opposite may take place in view of the 48 per cent rate of unemployment, bad living conditions and lack of security in the occupied territories which may aggravate the economic and demographic situation in Jordan through the influx of more refugees. In any case, a huge movement of people will carry a high cost of adjustment on both sides of the river. Will peace give rise to massive movement of people and capital eastwards or westwards? This is another unknown which Jordan can, but is not likely to do something about it.

True, Jordan is in dire need for water. Jordan is now living under the line of poverty if not the starvation line of water. Lifting objections against Al Wahda Dam on Yarmouk River, and giving the go-ahead signal for its financing and construction will be a small but welcome step, but will Israel agree to give Jordan back its full rights in the water of the Jordan River? And, equally important, will Syria give Jordan its fair share in the water of Yarmouk River? Will peace bring back to Jordan its water which was seized by the two states.

It is also believed that hundreds of thousands of tourists will flow into Aqaba and Petra. That is the good news. The bad news is the fact that most of them will be one-day visitors which makes the expected income from tourists less than enough to offset the environmental costs involved.

There will be peace dividend but it may be a meagre one. It takes plenty of understanding, vision and political will to benefit economically from peace. Unfortunately those qualities are in short supply.

In conclusion, the historical deal, which we are about to strike, must be good on its own merits from a national and political view points. The economic sweetener is not sweet enough to justify political concessions. Short of full land recovery, recognised borders, meaningful security guarantees, water rights and the right of return of the displaced Palestinians, Jordan should not sign a peace treaty or normalise economic and political relations with Israel.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

## The case for Arafat

By Ludwig W. Tamari

THE SIGNING of the Oslo accord in September was hailed by almost everyone in the international community as a diplomatic triumph for the Palestinians and the peace loving people in the world. The appearance of PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Washington was enough to convince even the most sceptical observers that a new era was dawning in the Middle East, that now there was a real chance for peace in the region.

But in some ways, nothing seems to have changed. It is no secret that prior to Oslo, Arafat was viewed as a pariah by his enemies — Israelis, Arabs, and others alike. That is still true. Today, fully nine months after the declaration of principles was signed in Washington, Arafat is still under enormous pressures. As before he is being buffeted from every side — for delivering too little, or too much, of acting like a dictator, or lacking in quality leadership, the reasons seem endless. But this time most of the criticism is coming from the Palestinian community itself. And it's getting more strident.

Recently, for instance, Dr. Hisham Sharabi of Georgetown University called on Palestinians to join ranks, before it is too late, with a view to forcing Arafat to sign a "Magna Carta" of sorts. Dr. Sharabi, a venerable and much-respected voice in the Arab-American community, gave Arafat very low marks for his (alleged) endless and useless policy of marking time. Dr. Sharabi is not alone: Arafat is now faced with mounting criticism from the Palestinian intelligentsia and business community in the United States and Europe. Mr. Arafat has become an anvil for the hammerlike strokes of his opponents (including a number of his closest supporters), who are now beating him ceaselessly.

At this stage it is almost immoral not to sympathise with Arafat. He is the person, after all, who signed the Oslo accord and who now must deliver on the promises it contained. Nor is there any doubt that the PLO leader is sometimes forced to act undemocratically — and that he makes decisions that few of us agree with.

It is easy, in the name of democracy, to call on others to build barricades against Arafat. But we should make no mistake about what is at stake here. The call for a strong stand against Arafat is a call for deepening the rift between the PLO leader and the people. It will pit Palestinian against Palestinian — again.

I am a realist and so is Chairman Arafat. Palestinians who live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have suffered under Israeli intransigence even before 1967. The Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and not us — the intellectuals, the businessmen, Europe — are the ones who led the intifada, who fought incessantly to throw off the yoke of Israel, who paid exorbitant taxes, to their occupiers.

Arafat had no choice. As chairman of the PLO — and representing all Palestinians — he had to walk a tightrope. He had to recognise the sacrifice of those in the occupied territories and concurrently guard against vitiating the enthusiasm of the intellectuals and the moneyed community.

It is time to be blunt. Our movement has succeeded. For the first time since 1948 the Palestinian people have a chance to govern themselves and establish their own state. This was not something that was granted by Israel — it was won by the tribulations and triumphs of the people of Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, Nablus, and Rafah. It was won by the generous contributions and heroic sacrifices by the Arab and Muslim worlds and the ranks and file of the Palestinians.

that could be claimed by the PLO alone or the armchair strategists in the drawing rooms of the world's capitals. The signing of the Oslo accord was nothing less than an apology for the injustice of 1948. But with this victory comes a stark realisation. The Palestinian people cannot defeat Israel by force of arms. That vision, cloaked in the blood of Israelis, Arabs, and Palestinians alike, has been buried forever. Good riddance. Arafat, the national leader, whatever his faults, has committed his people to living side-by-side with the Israelis in the land of Palestine. This long national struggle has not ended, it is just beginning. Should we criticise Arafat now, because he has not single-handedly recreated the world we knew in 1948? Because he is unable to reverse the hand of time? Because things are — but were no longer are — but should be? What a delusion.

Yasser Arafat is the one being made answerable and accountable for Palestinian actions by the world community, not his critics. He is the one who has made the promise to deliver peace. And his critics and detractors should understand that Arafat has taken a great risk in doing so.

It is time to end his fractious debate, between those who are Arafat's critics and those who support him. Arafat need not remain alone and lonely at the apex of the Palestinian national movement. Arafat should abandon the illusion that he and he alone can manage the newly created realities. Arafat should note that the criticism of the intellectuals and the business community is given in good faith and those who took to criticise the Oslo accord (like Dr. Sharabi, Haidar Abdul Shafi, Edward Said and many others) have a role to play in the new Palestinian entity. Arafat should accept their challenge by inviting their participation in the realisation of the world's newest state. I am certain that they will be true to their word and all of us will be proud of their contribution.

To the critics I should add that it is not what you say that is as important as how you say it. The continual hammering on Arafat must cease. Those who criticise have a responsibility to provide an alternative. So far, they have not done so. Arafat is not free from mistakes, but he is the leader of the PLO and the symbol of Palestinian nationhood.

As a practical matter, the criticism of Arafat is a reflection of the deep divisions in our own society — between those who conceived of our revolution on the outside of the territories, and those who fought for it on the inside. There ought to be a way to reach a conciliation between the two.

Whatever the answer to our current problems, our future lies in winning the battle for peace. The time for sacrifice by blood is over, the time for a new sacrifice — of conciliation — is beginning. Right now, Palestine — the nation-to-be — is in dire need of international funds. There are literally thousands of people in the West Bank and Gaza without visible means of support. The hope for their future is being dimmed while we endlessly debate the usefulness of what Oslo has wrought. The next generation of Palestinians is being embittered and impoverished by our endless niggling and our infinite ability to exchange volleys of criticism. It is time for the Palestinians to step down from their pedestal of armed struggle as a continuous process and look at the realities of the present situation.

It is time for us to realise that there is only one alternative and one option, and that is the one presented to us by Arafat the leader — peace. The writer is a Jordanian-Palestinian businessman based in Maryland, U.S.A.

M. KAHIL



## Arafat in Gaza: Stallions, donkeys and other symbols

By Rami G. Khouri

Editor's note: The following piece by Jordan Times columnist Rami G. Khouri was published in the Los Angeles Times Saturday

IT WAS, in the end, a spectacle in which symbols mattered as much as substance. In Yasser Arafat's return to Palestine Friday, after 27 years in exile leading the Palestinian struggle for national rights, the symbols spoke much of the impending reality of precinct politics, and less of the real and rest of national triumph.

The symbols are glaring in their awkwardness for Palestinians. He had to secure detailed Israeli approval for the timing and manner of his return to Palestine. He had to postpone his symbolic charged visit to Jerusalem. He travelled from an Egypt caught in the grip of stifling domestic tension, while his relations with other key Arab states remain tense and erratic. He entered a Palestinian homeland plagued by the legacy of Israeli occupation, ravaged by socio-economic distress, and humiliated by the hard reality that Palestinians enjoy only partial authority on small bits of their land, and that only with explicit Israeli tutelage. He travels in a Palestine pockmarked by hundreds of Jewish settlements enjoying Israeli extraterritorial sovereignty. He faces serious challenges within the Palestinian community, from progressive, republican-minded activists on the centre and left to Islamists on the right. And he wanders the world as he always has, seeking not so much diplomatic support as hard cash to pay his guards, pals, and employees.

He returned to Palestine this week riding not a shining steed, but a donkey. The donkey is a symbol of the Arab World, including myself, who support the Arafat/Fatah political approach and the Arab-Israeli peace process now underway. Arafat represents something far more important than the sum of the petty humiliations that he and his people endure. He represents the triumph of realism over idealism, of pragmatism over romanticism, and of hope over despair and degenerate violence. Sometimes in life, for particularly rigorous journeys, donkeys are more appropriate than stallions.

limp diplomatic donkey. Nevertheless, for those in the Arab World, including myself, who support the Arafat/Fatah political approach and the Arab-Israeli peace process now underway, Arafat represents something far more important than the sum of the petty humiliations that he and his people endure. He represents the triumph of realism over idealism, of pragmatism over romanticism, and of hope over despair and degenerate violence. Sometimes in life, for particularly rigorous journeys, donkeys are more appropriate than stallions.

The beast he rode home upon is the PLO-Israeli peace agreement that was negotiated in Norway and signed in Washington last year — an accord that is universally accepted as deeply flawed, grievously skewed in favour of Israel, and a humiliating shell of the nationalistic demands of the Palestinian people since the early decades of this century. Nevertheless, this is a small triumph to build upon for a Palestinian people who have savored few victories other than the heroic achievement of asserting their identity, their rights, their humanism, and their communal vigor for the full span of the past long and catastrophic century.

Realistic pragmatism, unlike bombastic and idealistic romanticism, drives us to recognise and then to celebrate the inherent value of small victories, and seeks to build upon them to achieve our larger national goals: initially, a Palestinian state living side by side with Israel, Jordan, Syria, and the other modern states that were born in the European-midwived Middle Eastern political order of 1920; and after that, mutual cooperation among Arabs and Israelis, in order to rekindle the dynamism, idealism and productivity

of the ancient yet still operative Semitic family of Christians, Muslims and Jews.

Arafat's return home marks the start of this enormous and moving historic challenge, for he and his movement symbolise the ascendancy of the politics of realism in the Arab World. Clearly, his strategy enjoys the support of a majority of Palestinians — a predominantly silent majority that accepts the fact that, given the state of the Arab World and of global power, we will attain our Palestinian national rights only through a process of compromise, patience and moderation. The truly significant Arab and Palestinian political dynamic today is that we accept compromise, patience and moderation as the inevitable mechanics of our achievable national aspirations, rather than only as the degrading attributes of the degraded and forgotten folk.

Leftists, "nationalists" and Islamists from the full spectrum of Palestinian and Arab politics have vehemently opposed both the Madrid peace process launched in 1991 and the Oslo accord signed in 1993 — but they have been stunningly ignored by the majority of Arab people and governments as either irrelevant or unrealistic. The Arab and Israeli majorities have spoken out clearly for a continuation of the peace process, despite its flaws, imbalances and mutual compromises. Arafat's return home represents the culmination of the first and easiest phase of peace making.

The second phase will require significantly more demanding and potentially hazardous domestic political battles, within both Palestine and Israel, as Friday's symbols clearly affirmed: Israeli police clashed with rightwing Israeli extremists, while Arafat's homecoming speech was top-heavy with olive branches to his domestic opponents (especially Hamas), and to his once-and-potential Arab financiers and diplomatic supporters. He will use his considerable political skills and his control of his suddenly rejuvenated political patronage and Palestinian finances to keep delivering on the high expectations and hazy promises of the peace process — greater Palestinian political authority, ending the Israeli occupation, rising living standards for Palestinians, i.e. peace, freedom and prosperity.

In his case, he is likely, Yeltsin-like, to accept just enough democratic pluralism to attract Western aid and prevent a domestic crisis, while providing the strong, centralised, top-heavy leadership that is consistent with Arab political culture and that may be required to assure stability, attract investments, and prod significant and speedy socio-economic progress.

Arafat's great challenge now is not to make the transition from guerrilla fighter to statesman; it is, rather, to make the transition from a political operative on a global stage to a political operative on a local stage. No wonder that his homecoming speech in Gaza sounded less like the triumphal oratorical zenith of a historical figure, and more like the acceptance speech of a political party presidential candidate trying to rally his forces for the partisan battles that lie ahead. Arafat's return essentially marked the end of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the start of a dramatic new era of ideological struggle and development challenges that will be played out — in the coming decade at least — within the countries of the Levant, instead of among them.



# case Arafat

that could be claimed by the PLO alone or by the chairman of the PLO, Yasser Arafat. The world's capitals, the signing of the Oslo accord, nothing less than an apology for the injustice of 1948. But with this victory comes a stark realization: The Palestinian people can not defeat Israel by force. That vision, cloaked in the blood of Israeli, Arab, and Palestinian alike, has been buried forever. Good riddance, Arafat, the national leader, whatever his faults, has committed his people to living side-by-side with the Israelis in the land of Palestine. This long national struggle has not ended, it is just beginning. Should we criticize Arafat now, because he has not single-handedly recreated the world we knew in 1948? Because he is unable to reverse the hand of time? Because things as they were were no longer are — but should be? What a decision.

Yasser Arafat is the one being made answerable and accountable for Palestinian actions by the world community, not his critics. He is the one who has made the promise to deliver peace. And his critics and detractors should understand that Arafat has taken a great risk in doing so. It is time to end his fractious debate, between those who are Arafat's critics and those who support him. Arafat need not remain alone and lonely at the apex of the Palestinian national movement. Arafat should abandon the illusion that he and he alone can manage the newly created realities. Arafat should note that the criticism of the intellectuals and the business community given in good faith as those who took to criticise the Oslo accord (like Dr. Shahril, Haidar Abi Shafi, Edward Said and many others) have a role to play in the new Palestinian entity. Arafat should accept their challenge by inviting their participation in the realisation of the world's newest state. I am certain that they will be true to their word and all of us will be proud of their contribution.

To the critics I should add that it is not what you say that is as important as how you say it. The continual hammering on Arafat must cease. Those who criticise have a responsibility to provide an alternative. So far, they have not done so. Arafat is not free from mistakes, but he is the leader of the PLO and the symbol of Palestinian nationhood.

As a practical matter, criticism of Arafat is a reflection of the deep divisions in our own society between those who conceived of our revolution in the outside of the territories, and those who fought for it on the inside. There ought to be a way to reach a reconciliation between the two.

Whatever the answer to our current problems, our future lies in winning the battle for peace. The time for sacrifice by blood is over, the time for a sacrifice — of conciliation — is beginning. Right now — is beginning — the national — is in dire need of international funds. There are literally thousands of people in the West Bank and Gaza without work. The means of their future, being diminished while endlessly debate the usefulness of what Oslo wrought. The next generation of Palestinians is being embittered and impoverished by our endless ability to exchange volleys of criticism. It is time for the Palestinians to step down from their pedestal of armed struggle as a continuous process and look at the realities of the present situation.

It is time for us to realize that there is only one alternative and one option and that is the one presented to us by Arafat — leader — peace.

The writer is a Jordanian Palestinian businessman based in Maryland. (U.S.) He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

## Features

### West prepares for peace, Balkans for war

By Alison Smale  
The Associated Press

**SARAJEVO** — As the world unfurls yet another Balkan peace plan, Bosnia and Croatia bristle with evidence that war is about to flare with fresh fury.

Three years into fighting that has claimed more than 200,000 lives, diplomats and U.N. officials are deeply sceptical that any side wants peace.

In Bosnia, a 3-week-old truce is being broadly ignored. The government is talking belligerently of defeating the Serbs and the Serbs promise a counter-offensive. In Croatia, Serb-Croat talks have collapsed and brought the foes back to the brink of war.

Serious fighting could spell the end of the NATO presence in Bosnia's U.N. force, and call the whole peacekeeping mission into question.

Ironically, a deal that ended nearly a year of Muslim-Croat fighting in Bosnia may mean more war.

The government has moved 15 brigades of fighting Croats to face the Serbs in northern Bosnia, a senior U.N. source said. In Sarajevo, government forces have dug new trenches to build on their infantry advantage.

The new federation also has meant small arms and ammunition are pouring in through Croatia, said the U.N. source, who insisted on anonymity.

New arms and pinprick successes against the Serbs have emboldened the government, the victim for much of the 26-month war.

Moreover, the U.S.-backed Muslim-Croat federation appears to be functioning. Tension remains high, but leaders unexpectedly have allowed one another's hard-liners into the federation government.

Bosnian army commander General Rasim Delic is openly urging a joint effort by the federation and Croatia proper against the Serbs. In Bosnia, Serbs hold about 70 per cent of

the territory. In Croatia, they control about a third.

"Until now, we have waged a defensive war," Gen. Delic said. "Now, we are moving to... a war for liberation."

Gen. Delic appears on Bosnian TV at the front lines with his forces. In Sarajevo, everybody talks of fighting to regain lost land.

U.N. officials say Bosnian government troops have done more than Serbs to violate a June 10 truce that was supposed to usher in a peace plan offered by U.S., Russian and European negotiators.

"The only way is the military defeat of the Serb aggressor," Gen. Delic told the Croatian daily Vecernji List. "I think this is also the only way for Croatia to get what it needs, a united Croatia in its internationally recognised borders."

A two-pronged attack could stretch the better-armed Serbs, but would invite bitter retaliation.

The latest international peace plan, with a formula giving Muslims and Croats 51 per cent of Bosnia and the Serbs 49 per cent, is to be unveiled in early July, then endorsed at the G-7 Naples summit. But it appears doomed.

The Bosnian government wants at least 58 per cent. The Serbs vow never to cede eastern Bosnia or a narrow northern corridor that links their conquests with Serbia proper.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic says he doubts the plan will be acceptable.

Some European officials matter the plan might stand more chance if Washington pushed the Bosnian government harder.

The United States finds it as hard as Bosnian leaders to allow Serbs to keep occupied land. Congressional moves to lift the arms embargo also suggest to the Bosnian government it doesn't have to settle.

Washington has endorsed a carrot-and-stick approach: Easing sanctions against Serbia if the Serbs accept and the government

says no; lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia if the Serbs refuse.

But the Bosnian government is unimpressed, noting Serbia has survived despite two years of economic sanctions. Failure this time could scuttle the entire international effort.

Spain, Britain and France could withdraw forces from the U.N. force by fall if peace does not materialise. U.N. officials hint that if Bosnia were free to buy arms, their mission would be over because one side would be openly preparing for war.

Meanwhile, there is danger of more war in Croatia, where U.N. troops have patrolled an uneasy peace since early 1992.

Serbs and Croats agreed in March to end their 1991 war over Croatian independence. But talks on the details collapsed and relations now are at ground zero.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman sees that Slobodan Milosevic, the powerful Serbian president, cannot or will not force Serbs in Croatia to settle. At the same time he is under domestic pressure to make progress on reintegrating Serb-held land. Attacking the Serbs would be popular.

U.S. ambassador to Croatia Peter Galbraith has publicly warned against it, suggesting economic sanctions eventually will ruin the Serbs.

Croatia should not take unilateral action with, "a high risk of failure," he said at Zagreb University. Decisions to fight, "have to be based on cold, hard political analysis, not on emotion."

But logic does not rule in the Balkans. Croatia has been arming despite a weapons embargo, and now reportedly has 16 MiG jet fighters.

On June 20, a MiG screeched over Zagreb airport, its pilot wagging wings and turning rolls in a display of the machismo that could yet drive much more bloodshed.



U.N. soldiers accompany an aid convoy in Bosnia (AFP photo)

### UNHCR says money shortage threatens Bosnia aid

By Philippe Naughton  
Reuters

**GENEVA** — The United Nations refugee agency warned Friday that funding shortages could bring its relief convoys in former Yugoslavia to a halt by the end of this month.

Separately, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it was becoming increasingly concerned about the Bosnian Muslim enclave of Bihać, cut off from U.N. aid since May because of a blockade by Serbs in neighbouring Croatia.

The agency said high

commissioner Sadako Ogata was to send major donor governments a letter on Friday urgently appealing for at least \$50 million to get through the summer months.

The UNHCR is the lead humanitarian agency in former Yugoslavia, where it looks after some four million people, most of them in Bosnia.

Although an upsurge in commercial traffic to the region has eased some of the pressure on the agency, millions still rely on the U.N. aid effort.

So far in 1994, the UNHCR has received only \$42.5 million in new donations, compared with \$200

million at the same time last year, the agency said in a statement.

Its total budget in former Yugoslavia this year is \$338 million, but it is facing a shortfall of some \$200 million.

In the letter to donors, Mr. Ogata wrote: "I am concerned that due to the summer recess in donor capitals we may not receive contributions until the month of September, unless funds are contributed shortly."

"This would oblige me to halt the humanitarian assistance programme in the former Yugoslavia, severely affecting the well-being of refugees and displaced persons."

A UNHCR spokesman, Ron Redmond, said the UNHCR was also worried about the northwestern enclave of Bihać.

The UNHCR has traditionally taken supplies to the Bihać pocket, home to about 200,000 Bosnian Muslims, through adjoining areas of Croatia held by ethnic Serbs since 1991.

But Mr. Redmond said Serbs in the so-called Krajina enclave have not allowed any convoys through since May, forcing the U.N. to cancel around 70 aid convoys and causing a severe shortage of staple foods.

The Bihać pocket is currently the scene of fighting between forces loyal to local Muslim leader Fikret Abdic, who has declared independence from Sarajevo, and the Muslim-led Bosnian government army.

Mr. Redmond said the Krajina Serbs — who U.N. officials said on Thursday were providing Abdic with weapons — had not given a reason for their blockade and UNHCR officials had so far been unable to persuade them to lift it.

He added: "We have asked the Bosnian Serb authorities in Pale to get the Krajina Serbs to cooperate but we have had no success."

### Democrats pound away at 'radical right'

By John King  
The Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Listen to Democrats these days, from President Bill Clinton on down, and it would appear that the Republican Party has changed its name to the radical party.

There certainly are deep fissures in the Republican ranks, deepest among them the differences between cultural conservatives and moderates over issues like abortion, gay rights, and school prayer.

But as the Democrats try to fan that fight and attract disenchanted Republican moderates, there's a more immediate reasoning behind the effort to paint Republicans as radicals: Democratic turnout has been pathetic this year, and the attacks are an effort to persuade liberals to vote.

"They only do well in low turnout," California Rep. Nancy Pelosi reminded fellow Democrats this weekend as she railed against "the radical right" — a label Democrats are using more and more these days as they search for a successful midterm election strategy.

At a party gathering this weekend, leaders stressed that only positive accomplishments would help Democrats limit their losses in the midterm elections.

Heading that wish list is health care reform. If major reforms aren't passed this year, "we're going to be blamed for being ineffective," Democratic Rep. Bill Richardson warned.

But with the outcome of that debate still uncertain, and other dynamics still unclear, Democrats are spending much of their time trying to paint Republicans as a party controlled by far-right radicals.

Mr. Clinton himself took issue recently with those he said "come into the political system and then say that anybody who doesn't agree with them is godless, anyone who doesn't agree with them is not a good Christian."

Those criticisms were repeated again and again at a gathering as Democrats pointed to the Christian conservative control of state Republican conventions recently in Texas, Virginia and Minnesota. This faction of the Republican Party, in the Democrats' view, is hellbent on destroying the Clinton presidency.

"Christian bashing" is Republican Chairman Haley Barbour's label for the Democratic attacks, a line repeated by Senate Re-

publican leader Bob Dole in a television interview.

Not so, say the Democrats.

"We want to compete for the votes of people of faith," said Democratic National Committee Chairman David Wilhelm.

"What we take issue with is the suggestion that one group's political views are ordained by God and that all others are non-Christian."

Some disillusioned Republicans have aided the Democrats' attacks on Republican radicals.

"If we say that every woman who has an abortion is a 'baby killer,' and that every son and daughter who is gay is an abomination, when we imply that women who demand equality are somehow violating their fundamental natures, well then we relegate ourselves to the sidelines," former New Jersey Republican Governor Thomas Kean admonished a Republican gathering in Iowa dominated by Christian conservatives.

Mr. Kean's blunt remarks earned him just two of the 1,349 votes cast at Iowa's 1996 presidential straw poll, obvious evidence of the influence the Christian conservatives have in many state Republican parties.

Because of that, many

Republicans with presidential ambitions dance delicately around the subject.

For example, former Housing Secretary Jack Kemp said he did not approve of harsh personal attacks on the Clintons, a staple on the television programmes of religious broadcasters Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell. But he did not criticise either of them directly, and said Democrats have unfairly "demonised" Mr. Robertson's Christian Coalition.

The Republican split will be an issue in primary campaigns this fall, as Democrats try to put Republicans in awkward spots.

"It can motivate some of our people to vote," said Mr. Wilhelm.

Many Republicans predict that intra-party tensions will work themselves out. But many Democrats, and some Republicans as well, aren't so sure.

Stanley Greenberg, a Democratic pollster, said one of three Republicans feels alienated from the party because of the rising influence of Christian conservatives.

"This obviously helps Democrats, but it is not just a tactic or strategy on our part," Mr. Greenberg said. "The Christian right stuff is underscoring a fault line in the Republican Party that is fundamental."

In other developments: Palestinian broadcasting corporation radio went on the air for the first time Saturday beaming test programmes of classical Arab music out of a studio in Jericho.

"Brothers and sisters all over Palestinian land, this is the voice of Palestine," the speaker announced as broadcasting began mid-afternoon on medium wave at a frequency of 702 kilohertz.

Right-wing Israelis staged a protest against Mr. Arafat's visit, holding a sabbath prayer in Jerusalem.

Heavily guarded by hundreds of police deployed throughout the old walled city, about 4,000 men and boys in dark pants and white shirts swayed as they recited afternoon prayers at the western wall.

### Damascus a mausoleum for Assad's dead son

By Kate Dourian  
Reuters

**DAMASCUS** — Five months after the death of President Hafez Al Assad's eldest son in a car crash, Syria remains a nation in mourning and its capital a giant mausoleum to Bassel Al Assad.

Posters of Bassel, aged 32 when he died on January 21 this year, are still being pasted on every wall in cities across the country in a national effort to immortalise the young man they call the "golden knight of Syria."

Airports, hospitals, military academies, mosques, streets, gardens and squares are being renamed after the army major and martyr.

Was he the heir apparent? Opinion among diplomats is divided.

Some believe he was being groomed for high office or even as a successor to his 64-year-old father, who has ruled the country for nearly a quarter of a century.

The diplomats say he had the qualifications for stepping into his father's shoes.

The eldest of Mr. Assad's four children — three boys and a girl — Bassel had the leadership credentials. He was an army major with a degree in engineering, a parachutist and master equestrian with a string of successes on the turf. He also had a passion for fast cars.

"Don't forget that you cannot have a leader in Syria who does not have a base in the army," said a well-informed Syrian source, acknowledging that even in official circles Bassel was considered a qualified candidate.

"People had hopes that Bassel would make things better. He was already looking at ways to crack down on corruption," the source said. "Now they are afraid that there will be chaos if Assad goes because they cannot see who can replace him."

Shortly after Bassel died,



Bassel Al Assad

attention turned to his younger brother Bashar, a soldier and a doctor.

But Bashar has kept a relatively low profile except for a brief public appearance recently when he received a team of Cossack horsemen who rode all the way to Syria from southeast Russia to pay their last respects to Bassel.

"That Bassel was widely admired among the population of 13 million is apparent. Private cars and taxis have pictures of the bearded Bassel glued to their windows and windshields."

"His death was a blow because people really believed that Bassel would improve things," said another diplomat.

Like Mr. Assad's other children, Bassel was brought up strictly and was never seen as the privileged son of a powerful president, the diplomats say.

Bassel on horseback, in parachute outfit, wearing a

the Damascus airport road came as a shock to most Syrians. His very name — which translates as valiant the lion — suggested invincibility.

"People are now worried that the stability they nurtured so painstakingly for so long could go up in smoke," said one diplomat.

But a senior government official, presidential aide Bahjat Suleiman, said recently people saw brother Bashar as a symbol and guarantee for stability and continuation of President Assad's policies.

Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas, speaking 40 days after Bassel's death, declared that Bashar had all the qualifications to follow in the steps of his brother.

Syrians generally acknowledge that Mr. Assad brought political stability to the country when he took power in 1970, ending the dark years when coup d'etats were a fact of political life. There were once three in one year.

In Mr. Assad's Syria, a decade is not a long time in politics. Mr. Assad has kept most of his key ministers since his Baath Party came to power. Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam has held the job for 10 years, having served earlier as foreign minister.

Mr. Tlas has been defence secretary since Mr. Assad relinquished the position soon after becoming president.

One name not mentioned in political circles is that of Rifaat Al Assad, the president's estranged younger brother who is neither seen nor heard in Damascus.

Rifaat still holds the title of vice-president but has not appeared in public since his return from exile two years ago. Having once challenged his brother, he now yields no power.

The diplomats say that if Mr. Assad goes, then Mr. Khaddam as the elder statesman would most likely be asked to preside over a ruling council for an interim period.

### Arafat visits Jabaliya

(Continued from page 1)

tually be extended beyond Jericho to all the West Bank.

Mr. Arafat criticised international donors for withholding promised aid to his cash-strapped organisation, which must face the monumental task of rebuilding the decayed infrastructure of impoverished Gaza and Jericho.

"The World Bank and the donors are proposing conditions on you, and I refused these conditions... I will never accept allowing someone else to control the Palestinian economy... all the promises we were given evaporated."

"You must know that this Palestinian nation is a great

nation. It is omnipotent... with our own simple abilities, with our hunger and anguish and pain, we will build this authority... our road is hard and the challenge is to be or not to be."

The PLO chief said Palestinians would have to rely on their own meager resources to rebuild their economy, which has languished under decades of Israeli occupation.

Many of Jabalya's refugees turned out for a glimpse of the leader most had never seen. But Mr. Arafat, for the second consecutive day, did not move among them.

He emerged from a high-speed motorcade and was whisked away by bodyguards, ever nervous of assassination attempts.

Some residents said they were disappointed he had not stopped to talk and shake hands.

His adviser Nabil Shaath said Mr. Arafat was ecstatic about the trip and his reception in his homeland.

"He is in a state of euphoric happiness. He has been travelling all day (Friday) but I don't see any effect of the fatigue on him," said Dr. Shaath.

Palestinian official Saeb Erakat said Mr. Arafat would visit Jericho on Monday for the swearing in of the 24-member Palestinian authority that will run the autonomy.

Mr. Arafat is expected to leave for France on Tuesday. He is to meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Paris on Wednesday.

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# World Bank cuts back on new loans

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank said Friday it cut back sharply on new loans in the past fiscal year as developing nations in Latin America and southern Asia were able to turn to the private sector for money.

The international lending organisation said it promised \$20.8 billion in new loans in the fiscal year that ended June 30 — down from \$23.7 billion the previous year.

"In the past year, the availability of private capital to developing countries has expanded considerably," it said. "This has contributed to a sharp drop in adjustment lending as countries have not required (as much) balance of payments support from the bank."

World Bank President Lewis Preston welcomed the news. As developing countries have succeeded in reforming their economies, they're been able to turn to the international markets and private sector for money — sources of finance once closed to them.

Much of the drop in World Bank loans occurred in South Asia and Latin America. New loan commitments for the latter fell to \$4.7 billion from \$6.1 billion.

"Because many Latin American countries have successfully moved beyond the adjustment phases, there were few large bank loans (for that purpose)," the World Bank said.

New loans for South Asia dropped to \$2.4 billion from \$3.4 billion. The region benefited from a substantial influx of private capital, allowing it to cut back on its borrowing from the bank.

"India," continued with its reform programme, but the strengthening of its foreign reserves meant that it did not need to rely on quick disbursing loans from the bank," the lending organisation said.

Lending for the Middle East Africa also fell, to \$1.2 billion from \$1.8 billion. The drop reflected reduced lending to Algeria, because of its domestic economic difficulties, and to Egypt, which tapped other sources for aid.

The World Bank said it promised African nations \$2.8 billion in new loans in 1993-94, the same as the year before. Lending.

## Egypt to sell state-owned company shares on bourse

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, raising the pace of its slow-moving privatisation programme, aims to offer shares in two major state-owned firms to private investors later this month, officials said Saturday.

The shares will be the first government stock to be sold off on the Cairo Stock Exchange under the government's World Bank and IMF backed economic reform programme.

Brokers, itching for new stock issues to revive the near-dormant bourse, have welcomed the promised sales but say the two companies offer mixed investment opportunities.

The officials said the government planned to sell two million shares in Ameriyya Cement Company, with a nominal value of five Egyptian pounds (\$1.47) and 250,000 shares in Paints and Chemicals Industries, at a nominal value of 100 pounds (\$33.9).

The sales are being handled by two separate holding companies responsible for preparing hundreds of state-owned firms for privatisation and overseeing their transfer into private ownership.

"The (Ameriyya) offer will go ahead in the second half of July," an official at the Holding Company for Metallurgical Industries said. "The date will be fixed in the next 10 days."

An official at the Holding Company for Chemical Industries said the Paints and Chemicals Industries sale was also due to take place before the end of July.

So far, the few sales of shares in government owned stock have involved direct sales of entire companies to international investors, or

transfers of blocks of shares to workers' consortia known as Employee Shareowner Associations.

Brokers, who hope the privatisation programme will help the Cairo bourse emerge as a vibrant financial market after 40 years in the doldrums, expect the paint company shares to be priced at between 150 and 200 pounds (\$44.2 to \$59.0).

"That would be a very fair value... it looks like a good bet," said broker Amr Hossny of Triple A Securities.

But investors are withholding judgment on shares of the debt-ridden Ameriyya Cement, which the holding company says will be priced at 27 to 30 pounds, until the government announces an expected restructuring of its finances.

"As of July 1993, Ameriyya was in debt to the tune of 600 million pounds (\$177 million). Until we know what happens to the debts, its stock is going to be a speculative investment," said one broker who declined to be named.

The Ameriyya shares earmarked for sale represent a quarter of the company's total stock, while the two million shares in Paints and Chemicals Industries make up just 10 per cent of the 20 million shares held by the holding company.

Public Sector Minister Atef Obeid last month said Egypt's privatisation process had exceeded the targets set for it by the World Bank, and promised further acceleration in sales.

"From July 10 you will see announcements inviting people to buy stocks every day, every month," he said, likening the process to an unstoppable express train.

## Fund seeks easier terms to boost Arab trade

ABU DHABI (R) — The Arab World's main trade finance programme is relaxing its credit terms and linking Arab exporters and importers to try to shore up flagging inter-Arab trade, its chairman has said.

Jassem Al Manai, head of the Arab Trade Finance Programme (ATFP), said inter-Arab trade — about eight per cent of total Arab trade — was stymied by poor productive sectors and similarity in manufactured goods.

"Arab trade is so deficient mainly because the economic environment is unhealthy and we are not producing sophisticated products," he told a news conference. "Arab economies produce mostly primary and intermediate products which resemble other Arab productive sectors."

He said Arab countries starting with Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan will be linked in a database network at the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) before the end of this year to match importers and exporters.

"We are trying to fill the information vacuum about what goods Arab countries have available to trade," he said.

The Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab World's main financial institution, set up the ATFP in 1990 to develop Arab economies by financing their non-oil trade with each other.

Last year the ATFP issued credit lines to four countries, less than half of about 20 Arab League countries it is supposed to be reaching through the programme.

Mr. Manai said he hoped relaxing credit terms would be one way to bring more Arab countries into the programme.

"The board agreed to reconsider its terms to be more

flexible. It is considering lightening the interest rates which will differ according to the time period," Mr. Manai said.

He did not give figures. It was the second time this year the ATFP has met on revising its credit terms.

The ATFP currently offers credits at a rate of one-eighth per cent above the London interbank offered rate on finance terms up to 60 months. It has also eased other conditions.

The ATFP's 1993 annual report showed it approved \$94 million of \$139 million in finance requested.

Of the \$55 million paid in 1993 about half went to Algeria, Morocco received \$13 million, Oman \$10 million and Saudi Arabia \$4 million, the report said.

From January to May 1994 the fund has already approved \$72 million in credit lines, an ATFP statement said.

Abdul Rabman Taba, trade finance department director, told reporters that fund has received 14 requests for financing so far this year and he expected total financing requested to almost double to \$220 million by the end of 1994.

## China blasts 'capital games' of foreign investors

BEIJING (R) — China Saturday sharply criticised the "capital games" of foreign investors who whisked their profits out of the country through accounting deceptions and tax evasion.

"We welcome foreign businessmen's investment in China and will protect their lawful rights and interests," the official People's Daily said. "But we will absolutely not allow foreign businessmen to seek exorbitant profits, to violate our country's laws, or to use all sorts of illegitimate means to extract (profits)."

The article, entitled "capital games and profit leaks," accused some foreign investors of using many fraudulent methods to deny China its rightful share of taxes and profits and to secretly siphon foreign currency abroad.

In one survey, the newspaper said, more than half the foreign-funded ventures had failed to pay in their full amount of registered capital.

Some foreign firms had jacked up the price of the equipment they put into the Chinese investment or used poor-quality machinery to artificially boost the size of their investment.

Some foreign ventures exaggerated their rate of dividend or the prices of the raw materials they used, the article said. Others padded their local expenses and shipped their finished goods back to head office at below cost.

The article admitted China's frenetic emphasis on foreign investment, as part of economic reform, had led to some of the abuses.

"In recent years, many places linked the number of established foreign-funded ventures with the achievements of local leaders, which gave rise to false enterprises," it said.

## Kuwait told to cut budget despite price rise

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait should remain committed to cut state spending to curb its Gulf war-inflated budget deficit despite a recent rise in oil prices, an economic consultancy said Saturday.

"It is hoped that the ministry of finance and the government are not influenced by any short term rises in the oil market," Al Shal Consultancy said in a weekly commentary.

"We believe that to deal with the deficit, expenditures must be tightened down below the four billion dinar (\$13.5 billion) level with a promise of a continuous, decrease, regardless of any rise in revenues," it added.

Oil prices have risen by 40 per cent since five year lows in February on better than expected demand and buying by hedge funds among other factors. February's prices translated into real terms, adjusted for inflation, were the lowest since the early 1970s.

Kuwait oil receipts make up 90 per cent of state revenue.

The government has proposed spending in the 1994/95 fiscal year that started Friday of 4.39 billion dinars (\$14.3 billion) and proposed revenue of 2.537 billion (\$8.6 billion), leaving a net deficit of 1.853 billion (\$6.28 billion).

The proposals represent only a 1.19 per cent reduction in spending in 1993/94, leaving aside spending on arms which in 1994/95 has been included in the budget for the first time.

Parliament's finance and economic committee has asked the government to cut the spending proposals by 432 million dinars (\$1.46 billion). The budget bill, as is customary in Kuwait, will be passed retroactively in coming weeks.

Al Shal did not say which sectors of state spending would be cut.

The ministry of finance is reported to have proposed reducing the planned 1994/95 spending by 200 million dinars (\$677 million) and rais-

ing 100 million (\$338 million) in new revenue through new or increased fees on public services.

"The government will most likely take the path of least effort, which is to accept the ministry of finance's proposal," Al Shal commented.

Any spending cuts will be politically sensitive. Kuwaitis are accustomed to an all-encompassing welfare state that provides public services free or at minimal cost and government jobs for virtually all nationals who want one.

The deficit soared their Kuwait spent over half its foreign reserves on costs associated with the Gulf war, including a \$20 billion payment towards Operation Desert Storm, and further billions on oil sector repairs and handouts to citizens.

The Supreme Planning Council's economic committee has said that without reforming the state-orchestrated economy the budget deficit would grow by almost 50 per cent by the year 2000 and the deficit could be seriously affected.

Al Shal also said that Kuwait lacked a timetable for its long-awaited privatisation programme and obstacles remained in the way of a key sale.

"In spite of the government's efforts the issue still lacks a declared, definite and scheduled programme, not even one relating to a single sector or group of companies," Al Shal said.

Officials began discussing privatising the state-dominated economy five years ago but have started few projects because of disruption caused by Iraq's 1990-91 occupation and uncertainty about the overall shape of economic reform.

Additional obstacles to marketing state assets include civil service overmanning.

Economists say the telecommunications sector is likely to be the first major state service due to be sold and a World Bank report on privatisation last year recommended the participation of

foreign operator in any new company.

Al Shal said the sale posed a major test.

Communications ministry officials themselves say the ministry is overmanned by Kuwaitis and acknowledge this poses political problems for any potential sale.

"This sale might require about \$500 million, and a foreign partner might participate. Facing this major choice are some obstacles: The 40 per cent labour surplus — mainly local citizens (Kuwaitis) — weak management and legal structure and the potential political response," Al Shal said.

Ever since the Gulf war the government has said it wants to sell off the government's stakes in 66 local firms, minimise the government's role in the economy generally and broaden the emirate's domestic investment base.

Al Shal said the jury was still out on the performance of two funds linked to privatisation efforts.

"The Kuwait Investment

Authority (KIA) has marketed some of its stocks and real estate through publicly traded funds in Kuwait stocks exchange, delegating implementation to financial and real estate companies," Al Shal said. "We still do not know the extent of their acceptance and it is difficult to judge their success before the initial performance results are out."

One fund, launched earlier this year to sell ebanks of 39 KIA-owned firms, was believed to have had a lukewarm reception but no official statement on its performance has been made.

Applications for the 25 million dinar (\$82 million) first investment fund expired on May 30. On June 25 it won stock exchange approval but no date has been set for the listing.

A property company also launched a 20 million dinar (\$67.5 million) property fund open to Gulf Arabs and resident foreigners as a way of marketing KIA-owned property.

## Christopher outlines ambitious U.S. global economic agenda

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State Christopher says President Clinton is advancing "the most ambitious international economic agenda" for the United States in nearly 50 years, and will concentrate on "ratification of the Uruguay Round and initiatives to open new markets in Latin America and Asia."

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Christopher placed this issue at the top of the list of challenges which the administration will be addressing in its future agenda.

He said the others include:

- "An expanded NATO that advances the integration and security of a wider Europe;"
- "A comprehensive peace in the Middle East, with Israel secure and fully integrated in the region's political and economic life;"
- "A strong non-proliferation regime, including indefinite extension of the NPT, a comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and a ratified Chemical Weapons Convention;"
- "A United Nations better able to respond effectively and rapidly to crises;"
- "An Africa in which an increasing number of democracies cooperate to resolve conflicts and achieve sustainable development;" and
- "International action on population and global climate change."

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— "An Africa in which an increasing number of democracies cooperate to resolve conflicts and achieve sustainable development;" and

— "International action on population and global climate change."

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff

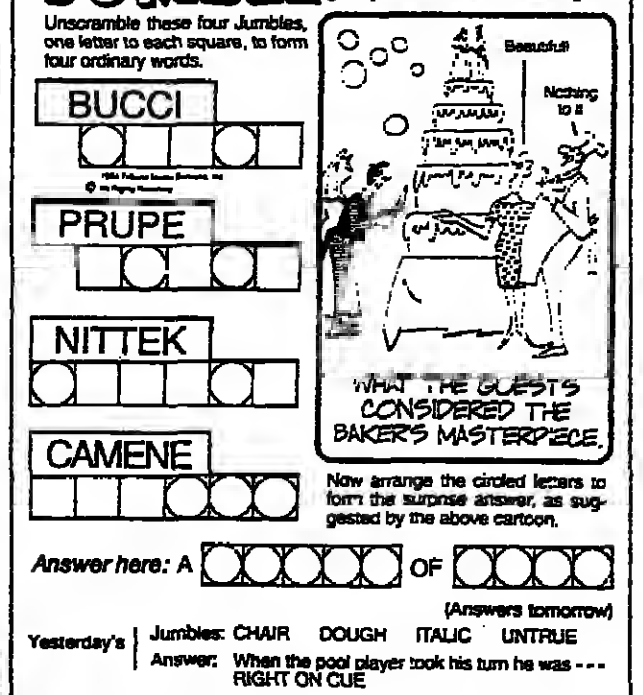


## THE BETTER HALF



"Back rubs can be fun! Pretend you're six years old and I'm 130 pounds of Silly Putty!"

## JUMBLE



## Egypt requests U.S. military support

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Department of Defense on June 23 released the following memorandum for consideration:

The Department of Defense informed the Congress today the government of Egypt has requested the purchase of shipyard support services for the turnover and post transfer activities related to the lease of two Knox class frigates from the navy, and the rework, overhaul and upgrade of ten excess SH-2F anti-submarine warfare (ASW) helicopters to the SH-2G configuration. The estimated cost of the support services package is \$360 million.

Included in the support services contract would be test range services, 4,000 rounds of 57/54 ammunition (includes training and tracer rounds), 40,000 rounds of 20mm cartridges for the Phalanx Close-in Weapon System, chaff cartridges, sonobuoys and other related ammunition items, four spare helicopter engines, personnel training and training equipment, spare and repair parts,

support equipment, publications and technical data/drawings, U.S. government and contractor technical and logistics personnel services and other related programme elements to sustain the operational requirements of the frigates and helicopters.

Egypt will use the Knox class frigates, which are being leased from the U.S. Navy, and supporting ASW helicopters to modernise its defensive naval capabilities. They will enable Egypt to provide for the security of the Suez Canal and its shipping lanes into the Mediterranean Sea.

This sale would contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for potential stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The SH-2F helicopters will be provided from navy stocks and will be transferred at no cost under the Southern Region Amendment.

Fall dollar makes a bargain

MIAMI (I) — Tourists are flocking to the city, the vacation is in full swing.

It's been a long time since the city has seen so many tourists.

The city is now a popular destination for tourists from all over the world.

The city is now a popular destination for tourists from all over the world.

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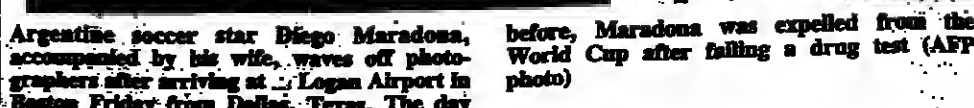


**WorldCupUSA**

inals, and the shock 1-0 triumph over Belgium made them Group F runners-up. Their strength lies in the speed of their forwards, allied to their ball control.

The Saudis will have Fuad Anwar Amin, who scored against Morocco and the Dutch, back after suspen-

fed Klinsmann on the left side of the penalty box and the Monaco forward fired home with his left foot.



Belgium. "Those five substances were not sufficient to make a substantial difference,"

which contained all five drugs in an apparent attempt to rule out the possibility he took it accidentally as part of

pounds in his fitness battle and Rogge thought the drug might have been taken as conditioner.

9

him against Bulgaria and Basile does not have much time to rejuvenate his play-

**Argentina's first two matches, could return in a starting place in midfield.**

Marian Ivan; 17-Viorel Moldovan.  
Argentina: 12-Luis Islas 3-  
Jose Chamot, 6-Oscar Ruggeri, 13-Fernando Caceres,

first appearance in the World Cup finals, were expected to qualify for the second round with such panache.

left-winger Luis Alves "Zague" operates on only the left flank, but fills the roles of midfielder, winger and striker in the contempor-

Saudi Arabia, by contrast, brought an equally novel, if far more defensive concept with them to the United States. After scaring the Netherlands in their opening

centre of midfield, with little use made of long passes to the wings. This was a tactic which caused Belgium much anxiety, particularly as the Sandie's own attacking style

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A.A.M.S. is pleased to offer an explanatory presentation on the foundation year programme at its premises on the 4th of July 1994 at 8 o'clock. This programme is designed for students who have completed their Tawjili or other equivalents and are willing to resume their undergraduate studies in the U.K.

Interested parents and students are welcome.

**For reservation, please call 828949/53**

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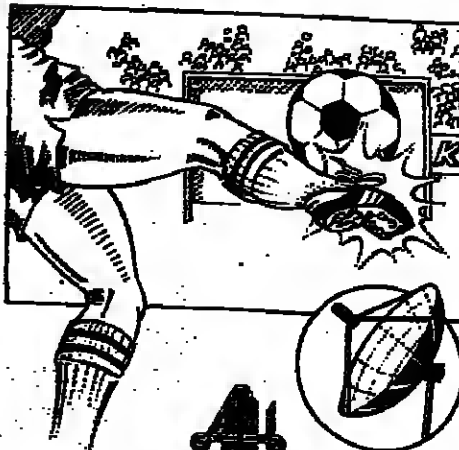
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## Hill steals show from Mansell in French GP

MAGNY-COURS, France (R) — Briton Damon Hill stole the show from Williams teammate Nigel Mansell and world championship leader Michael Schumacher in Friday's final practice to claim pole position for Sunday's French Grand Prix.

With barely five minutes left in the session, Hill clocked a fastest time of one minute and 16.282 seconds to prevent his compatriot Mansell, the 1992 world champion, from staging a sensational comeback to Formula One.

Mansell, who has returned to Grand Prix driving for one race after 18 months on the IndyCar circuit, led the way throughout the session before being ousted by Hill's last effort. He had to be content with 1:16.359 and second place.

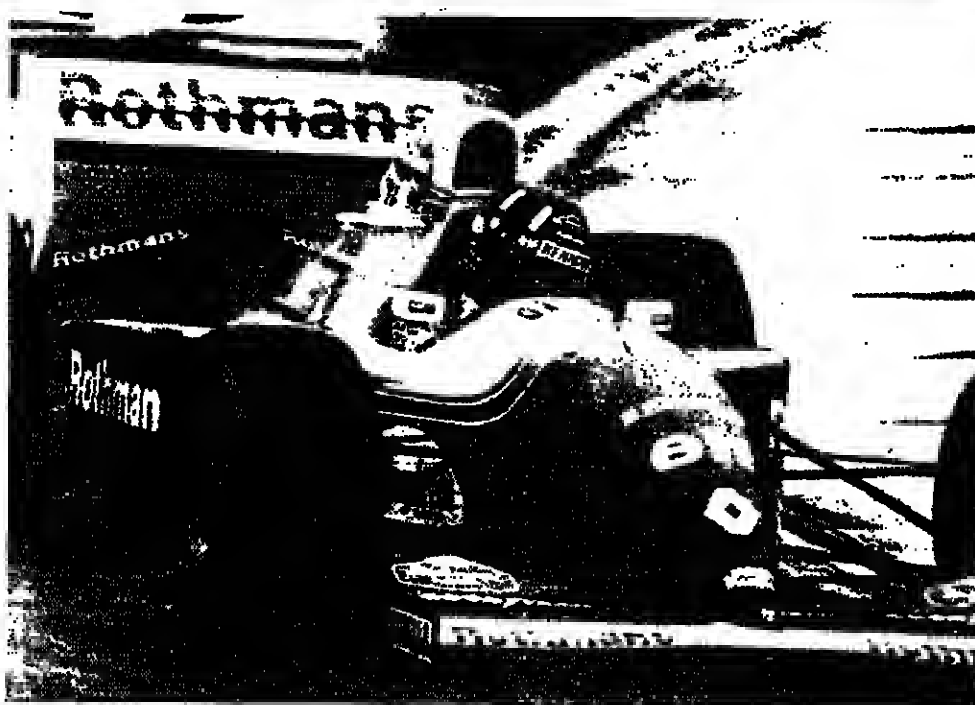
It was Hill's third pole position in his career and his second in succession at Magny-Cours.

It was a perfect day for Williams who relegated Schumacher to third place on the grid with his time of 1:16.707.

So impressive in blazing sunshine in the first session Friday, the 25-year-old German Benetton driver struggled on a grey and cloudy day Saturday.

He drove straight into a sand pit in the morning's free practice, damaging a deflector on his car, then had a spin. In the afternoon, he was never in a position to challenge the Williams.

There were yet more clouds for Benetton when their second driver, Dutchman Jos Verstappen, hit the fence lining the pit lane and lost both left tyres. One bounced over the fence, damaging timing equipment and forcing the session to be halted after 24 minutes.



Damon Hill

## Far-flung venues make Cup travellers weary

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The most far-flung World Cup tournament ever has teams struggling to cope with unprecedented travel distances and lodging troubles.

Nine U.S. venues for the global football event stretch across 5,000 km (3,125 miles) from Boston in the northeast to San Francisco and Los Angeles in the West.

Adjusting to time changes and extensive plane travel has been difficult. In the first round, nine teams have lost after extended journeys.

Romanian coach Anghel Iordanescu blamed his side's 4-1 loss to the Swiss in Detroit on their journey from the U.S. west coast.

"We had a tough travel schedule changing time zones and we were not able to recover," he said.

FIFA President Joao

Havelange has been well travelled, catching matches involving 17 different teams at eight venues. But even he could not keep up, dropping one trip after Maradona's doping scandal became known.

Finding second-round hotel rooms proved difficult for some teams. The Swiss knew they would play a second-round match here six days early, but hotels filled for the U.S. capital tourist season forced them to stay some 56 km (35 miles) from RFK Stadium.

"We tried to find a place closer but everything was booked," Swiss Football Federation Vice President Guido Cornella said. "The team is able to stay together, but we have to send the reporters to a different hotel."

Swiss delegation leader

Carlo Lavizzani tried in vain to find rooms through World Cup organisers, but several members tried in the meantime to find rooms on their own. They found on their own were nicer and at a better cost.

Spain, the Swiss foes Saturday, stayed at a downtown hotel only a short distance from the stadium.

Some teams seemed to thrive on travel, however. Saudi Arabia shifted their base of operations from a rural college to downtown Washington, then responded by advancing to the second round.

"Changes in location do not matter," Saudi coach Jorge Solari said. "Our players are accustomed to playing in different places. They know they will have to travel."

## Ezzoud wins Britain's Eclipse Stakes

SANDOWN, England (R) — Ezzoud beat off the challenge of two classic winners to give trainer Michael Stoute his second successive victory in the Eclipse Stakes Saturday.

The Maknom Al Makroum-owned horse took up the running inside the final two furlongs to win by one and a half lengths from last year's St. Leger winner Bob's Return with Derby winner and 6-4 on favourite Erhaab in third place.

Bob's Return set the pace right from the start of the mile and a quarter (2km) race but could find nothing extra when Ezzoud made his challenge although he still had enough pace to hold off a disappointing Erhaab.

Ezzoud, ridden by Walter Swinburn, was priced at 5-1 and Bob's Return at 13-2.

Stoute, trainer of last year's winner Opera House, another five-year-old, said afterwards: "He is a very good horse and the race was set up for him because he likes a good pace."

## Martinez spoils Navratilova's farewell, wins Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Conchita Martinez spoiled Martina Navratilova's bid for a 10th title in her Wimbledon farewell appearance Saturday.

Martinez used brilliant passing shots to beat Navratilova 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 and win her first Grand Slam title. She became the first Spanish woman ever to capture the Wimbledon championship.

The 37-year-old Navratilova had hoped to crown her 22nd and final Wimbledon appearance with one more title. But she came up short against the flashing groundstrokes of the 22-year-old Spaniard, playing in her first Grand Slam final.

"I gave it everything I had," Navratilova said. "I'm very sad. I would have been sad even if I'd won. It was not the ending I was hoping for. But she played better, on the big points anyway."

"I'm happy I got to the finals," she said. "I don't think many people picked me to get to the final ... I have nothing to hang my head about ... I lost a match, but

what a way to go. It's been a great run."

Martinez hit a remarkable 28 passing shots — most off the backhand — as she kept the charging Navratilova at bay. Navratilova, charging the net every opportunity, had 22 volley winners.

"Today, she passed me as anyone has," Navratilova said.

The match ended after 1 hour, 59 minutes with Martinez going to the net after a backhand slice approach shot — and watching Navratilova's backhand sail wide. Martinez then flung her racket in the air and let out a shriek.

Navratilova sat in her chair, let out a sigh and smiled at her friends and coaches in the players' box. When she received the runner-up trophy from the Duchess of Kent, Navratilova smiled, laughed and bowed — then tears came to her eyes as the centre court crowd gave her a long standing ovation.

"How about next year?" a fan shouted as Navratilova

walked around the court to show the trophy to the crowd.

"That's when it hit me," she said. "This is the last time. That was pretty rough. But no regrets, absolutely none."

Navratilova has said this would be her last singles match at her favourite tournament. It was her 12th Wimbledon final and 85th appearance on centre court. Before walking off for the last tie, she grabbed a small piece of grass from the famous lawn court to keep as a souvenir, then bowed for the final time to the royal box, which included Princess Diana.

Navratilova was asked if she would consider returning next year. "I really don't think so," she said. "I think I've had enough. This is a nice way to end. I've had a great run, better than anything I could have imagined. I'm obviously sad, but I'm also happy. It's a new beginning for me. I'm looking forward to my life after tennis."

## NBA begins global show

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Now the best of the National Basketball Association (NBA) are ready to see the world.

Houston were crowned champions after beating New York last week in the final game of the league playoffs. But that conclusion to the eight-month season was only the start of an NBA-push for global exposure.

Before the 1994-95 season starts with two games in Japan, NBA stars will play in six nations and face the rest of the world's best players. Sales of NBA merchandise are at record levels in Europe, Australia and Japan and prospects are growing.

"NBA products have become part of the youth culture around the world," said

Paul Zilk, general manager of the NBA's International Group. "It doesn't matter whether people are French or German or Japanese, the appeal and interest in associating themselves with the NBA is universal. And that's quite incredible."

Dream Team II, the U.S. squad for August's World Basketball Championships, will be the focus of NBA pride. Players gather in three weeks at Chicago to begin training together, with exhibitions scheduled against Germany and the U.S. team competing in the Goodwill Games.

The U.S. squad will face 15 other nations in Toronto, which will join Vancouver in 1995 as the first two non-U.S. cities with NBA clubs. Fol-

lowing in the footsteps of the 1992 Olympic "Dream Team" are such NBA stars as Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal, Indiana's Reggie Miller, Charlotte's Alonzo Mourning and Larry Johnson, Seattle's Shawn Kemp and Dominique Wilkins of the Los Angeles Clippers.

"The only place the NBA can expand now is through the international community," said Phoenix guard Kevin Johnson, a member of Dream Team II. "Hopefully by the year 2000, the NBA will be recognised as the most exciting sport in the world."

Several other NBA players will visit Europe as part of

the NBA 3-on-3 world tour, which stops in Paris this weekend. The shadows of the Eiffel Tower were packed by 180,000 spectators to watch 2,500 players last year. Paris will mark the 11th stop on a 25-city European tour that extends through October.

"The world tour has turned out to be a perfect vehicle," said NBA International's Mike Bantom. "We felt if we could get people playing, we would find those who love it and carry it forward."

More than 800,000 spectators are expected to watch 50,000 players this year, with six stops in Spain and four each in Italy and Germany.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HERSHOF  
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### TOO MUCH BEEF

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ 10 5 2  
♥ 10 6 3  
♦ Q 8 3 2  
♣ 7 2

**WEST** ♠ 8 5 3  
♥ K 9 7 6  
♦ A 7 4  
♣ K Q J 10 9 5 4 A 8 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ 4  
♥ A 7 4 2  
♦ A 10 8 5  
♣ 3

The bidding:  
West North East South  
3♥ Pass 4♥ 4♥  
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠  
While bridge is not a game of luck, being fortunate does nobody any harm. South needed quite a slice of it, as well as accurate card reading, to land this heart game.

Taking advantage of the vulnerability, East raised West's three-club preempt to four clubs. That posed a considerable problem for South, who had no way of showing the two-suited nature of the holding without bypassing four hearts, which was possibly the only viable contract. (Double was out of the question because of the near certainty that North would bid spades.) Four hearts was as good a bid as any.

West led the king of clubs and continued with the queen, ruffed in the closed hand. With a 3-2 trump break, all declarer would expect to lose would be one trick in each suit except diamonds, so declarer continued by cashing the ace of trumps, on which West contributed the jack. That meant there was a danger of a second trump loser.

Declarer solved the problem neatly. Abandoning trumps, declarer cashed the ace-queen of diamonds and continued running the suit. Consider West's predicament. If the defender ruffed at any point, he would be trapped in an endplay. A heart lead away from the queen would surrender a trump trick; a club would allow South to discard the spade loser from hand while ruffing in dummy; and a spade would be ducked to dummy's queen for the fulfilling trick.

East desperately tried to escape the inevitable by discarding two spades and a club, coming down to K 9 in spades and Q 9 8 in trumps, but to no avail. Now declarer simply cashed the king of hearts and exited with a trump, conceding two tricks to the suit to East. At the end, the defender had to lead away from the king of spades and the spade loser vanished. Beautiful!

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### McRae crashes in Argentina

CORDOBA, Argentina (AFP) — British driver Colin McRae and his navigator Derek Ringer both escaped serious injury here Friday, when their Subaru left the road in the Rally of Argentina and rolled over. Their car was moving at speed down a steep mountain road, considered one of the most dangerous sections of the second stage, when the accident happened. Although unscathed, the organisers said it was unclear whether McRae would be forced out of the race. The Scotsman had made a barnstorming start to the day, winning all four of the opening special sections and moving up from fifth place to fourth overall. Sources within the Subaru team told AFP that McRae was driving with a punctured tyre at the time of the accident.

### Computer assisted football

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — The United States have gone high-tech in their quest to beat Brazil in their Fourth of July World Cup second-round clash at Stanford Stadium. Assistant coaches have fed data from Brazil's first three matches into a computer. Every play is logged, and lines criss-cross the screen showing the paths of the ball. An opponent

can then work out the most frequent moves — and hopefully counter them. The United States have never beaten Brazil in five attempts, and in their four games since 1976 have not even scored a goal. Should they do the unlikely and make the quarter-finals, they could thank partners Zvi Friedman and Jon Kotas who designed the software. The majority of players seemed to like the device, but coach Bora Milutinovic is sceptical.

### Swede sets swimming record

NORRKPING, Sweden (AFP) — Jan Karlsson set a new world's best time for the 50m butterfly here Friday, when he clocked 24.27 sec during the Swedish national swimming championships. Karlsson had set the previous world's best time of 24.33 sec in July, 1992 at Landskrona, Sweden. The discipline is not classified for world records, although his time will be recognised as a European record. "I'm sure that I can swim the 50m butterfly in less than 24sec," said the 25-year-old, who broke onto the international scene in December, 1991 when he won the 50m short course butterfly at the European championships in Birmingham.

## W e e k e n d

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	PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN Cinema and Theatre		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAN THEATRE	
	JURASSIC PARK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Revenge Of The Nerds Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' MR. JONES Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' BODYGUARD Shows: 3:30, 8:30 LOVER BOY Shows: 12:30, 6:15, 10:30		2 hours of laughter MARIO BROS Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30		Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"		Present their play: WHAT A PEACE! (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tues days.	



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Palestinian police free two Israeli TV guards

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Two guards hired by Israeli television were released early Saturday after being held for six hours by Palestinian police on the orders of Yasser Arafat, an Israeli radio official said. Motti Amir said one of whom was armed with a pistol, were accompanying a crew working for the Arabic service of Israeli Television during Mr. Arafat's landmark visit to the Gaza Strip Friday. They handed the weapon to Palestinian police so that they could get close to the podium where Mr. Arafat was giving a speech in Gaza City. "After the speech the two guards wanted to get their weapon back. One of Arafat's personal bodyguards witnessing the scene thought their behaviour was suspicious. He warned the PLO leader, who ordered the arrest of the two guards," Amir said. Israel's representative on the joint Israeli-PLO military liaison committee, General Yom Tov Samia, then intervened telephoning Mr. Arafat to resolve the matter. Under the autonomy accord signed in Cairo on May 4 all Israeli and Palestinian civilians can carry a weapon if they have a permit. "Everybody has the right to self-defence — Israelis and Palestinians," it says. In future the PLO plans to make the Palestinian police responsible for protecting Israeli radio and television journalists working in the autonomous territories of Gaza and Jericho, Mr. Amir said.

## Earthquake shakes southern Iran

NICOSIA (R) — An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted an area of southern Iran near Bandar Abbas, at the mouth of the Gulf, the official Iranian news agency said on Saturday. It said the quake struck at 5.38 p.m. (1308 GMT) on Friday but that it was not yet possible to say what casualties or damage may have been sustained. The Geophysics Institute of Tehran University monitored the tremor. At Bandar Abbas, which guards the Strait of Hormuz, Iran is building an aluminium smelter that is supposed to start up early next year and an oil refinery that is due to be finished in two years. Quakes plague Iran regularly. The worst recorded one, measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale, killed 75,000 people in a densely populated region near the Caspian Coast, far to the north, in 1990. Each full point on the Richter scale represents a ten-fold increase in destructive potential.

## UAE man arrested in Manila with gun

MANILA (AFP) — Philippine airport security agents on Saturday arrested a man from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who was caught with a 12-gauge homemade shotgun in his baggage. Sergeant Rogelio Cid of the airport's security command identified the man as Abdul Muhren Nasser Rushd Humaid Al Lumlani, who claimed immunity from arrest, saying he was a member of UAE's royal family. Authorities, however, noted that the man was not holding a diplomatic passport, and could not invoke immunity. His Filipino companion was also arrested but it was not clear if she would be included in the charges. Sgt. Cid said that customs agents found the shotgun inside the man's luggage. He would be charged with illegal possession of a firearm, Sgt. Cid added.

## Thailand makes Israel off limits for workers

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand has temporarily stopped sending labourers to Israel, citing the unstable political situation of the country and continuing threat of violence, local dailies reported Saturday. A Labour and Social Welfare Ministry statement to foreign employment agencies here said Israel remained volatile and potentially dangerous while the Israelis and Palestinians negotiated a peace settlement, reports said. Thailand is one of Israel's top suppliers of cheap labour. There are roughly 2,000 Thai labourers working on Israeli farms, according to the Israeli embassy in Bangkok. Israel announced in April it would import 15,000 foreign labourers, mainly from Romania and Thailand, to replace Palestinian workers. The Thai government has been hesitant to fill orders, however, as tensions between unemployed Palestinians and foreign workers have occasionally run high.

## U.N. peacekeeper dies in South Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (AFP) — A U.N. peacekeeper was killed and four others were injured Friday in a road accident in South Lebanon. U.N. spokesman Timur Goksel said. A jeep carrying the five Nepalese soldiers with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) overturned on the Deir Harfa to Tyre road. The injured soldiers were taken by helicopter to hospital at Nagoura, in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon. Twenty Nepalese soldiers have died accidentally or in clashes in South Lebanon since 1978. A total of 199 UNIFIL soldiers have died in the same period.

## Slovakia denies arms deal with Syria

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) — The foreign ministry has denied a Lebanese newspaper report that Slovakia had concluded a major arms deal with Syria. "No such agreements have been signed," said ministry spokeswoman Vera Viskupova. "It is totally false." The leftist, pro-Syrian Al Safir newspaper in Beirut reported Thursday that Slovakia had recently signed an agreement to sell 250 T-72 battle tanks to Syria. It quoted unidentified Western diplomats as saying the agreement was signed during a recent visit by Slovak Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan to Syria. Mr. Kukan visited Syria, Lebanon and Egypt in late June. But he strongly denied signing any such deal. He said his trip to Syria focused on improving diplomatic relations and addressing his country's trade imbalance with the Middle East country. Ms. Viskupova said Friday that Slovakia had not signed any arms sale agreements with Syria since it became independent in the breakup of Czechoslovakia at the beginning of 1993. Slovakia is the eastern third of the former Czechoslovakia, once a major arms supplier to former Warsaw Pact and Third World countries. Many weapons factories were located in Slovakia.

## Security forces kill suspect in Upper Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Security forces shot and killed a wanted Islamic militant as he tried to avoid arrest in the town of Mallawi in Upper Egypt, sources close to the security services said Saturday. Ragab Abdul Hakim, "a dangerous terrorist who had fled from Assiut province," was shot dead Friday when security forces came to arrest him at his home in Mallawi, 300 kilometres south of Cairo, the sources said. His death raised to 399 the number of people killed since March 1992, when militants began a violent campaign to topple the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak. The victims include 151 militants and 140 policemen. The outlawed Al Jaama Al Islamiyya has carried out fewer attacks in Cairo and the Assiut region of Upper Egypt since the head of its military wing, Talat Yassin Hammam, was shot dead in Cairo on April 25. Assiut has been a hotbed of militant activity since the unrest started.

## Brother kills raped sister in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — A man stabbed his 16-year-old sister to death after she told him three men had raped her in Kuwait's desert, a newspaper reported on Saturday. The 21-year-old man told his sister he was taking her to a police station to report the rape, then killed her in a desert area 35 kilometres north east of Kuwait city, Al Watan newspaper said. "He started stabbing her with a knife after she told him the names of the criminals," it added. The victim told her brother she was raped by two Kuwaitis and a Bahraini in the desert, said the paper.

## Tehran releases German engineer

BONN (AP) — A German engineer who had been sentenced to death in Iran was released on Friday and returned to Germany in good health, the government said Saturday.

Germany had been negotiating with Iran for months to win freedom for Helmut Szmikus, whom an Iranian court had condemned for allegedly spying for Iraq during the 1980-88 war between Iran and Iraq. The deputy government spokesman, Norbert Schaefer, said Mr. Szmikus flew to Frankfurt and was in "relatively good health." It said he had not complained about his treatment during over five years in Iranian prison.

Mr. Schaefer's statement did not refer to the spying conviction against Mr. Szmikus. It said the pardon and release for the German engineer resulted from talks during the mid-July visit to Germany by Iranian foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. He met with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and other high officials.

The pardon for Mr. Szmikus was announced then, and Germany said it made no promises to Iran in return for his release. German news media have speculated that Iran hopes to influence the trial in Berlin of an Iranian and four pro-Iranian Lebanese accused of killing a Kurdish leader in 1992.

Germany's federal intelligence coordinator, Bernd Schmidbauer, who negotiated for Szmikus' freedom, was in Tehran Saturday to thank the Iranian government, the Iranian state-run news agency IRNA reported. Mr. Szmikus was arrested in 1989. Three years later, he was convicted of spying for Iraq. Iranian news media said Mr. Szmikus arrived in Iran in 1980.

A radical Tehran newspaper, Salam, claimed last year that Mr. Szmikus used a secret radio to transmit intelligence to the Iraqi military and helped locate targets for Iraqi missiles during the 1980-88 war.

Mr. Szmikus' pardon and the close German-Iranian negotiations that preceded it drew attention to Germany's ties with Iran, a relationship that has been criticised by the United States.

Germany has repeatedly defended its friendly links with Iran, saying that they can be a fruitful means of getting Tehran to improve its human rights record.

The German government, which negotiated for months for Mr. Szmikus' release, said it had promised Iran no favours in return for the engineer's pardon.

Mr. Schmidbauer met with Iran's deputy parliamentary speaker, Hassan Rowhani, who called for further expansion of cultural, political, economic and parliamentary links between the countries.

Mr. Ruhani described the links between their countries as "satisfactory and growing," according to the broadcast.

Mr. Schmidbauer was also to deliver a message from German Chancellor Kohl to his Iranian counterpart, Hashemi Rafsanjani, IRNA said.

## The Jerusalem Post

PRIME MINISTER Yitzhak Rabin lashed out yesterday (Thursday) in an unprecedented attack on the opposition, accusing it of seeking "to topple the government through violence in the streets this weekend. There is no telling where all this will lead."

The Likud reacted by accusing Rabin of "demagoguery, shameful incitement and anti-democratic tendencies when he strives to deny his opponents their legitimate right to demonstrate and exercise free speech."

Addressing the weekly session of the Labour Party political bureau, Rabin charged that "this weekend the right will make a supreme effort to inflame passions, disturb the peace and incite to riot. On Sunday, the right plans to try to violently take over the



ARAFAT IN JABALIYA: Palestinian leader hero's welcome in the Jabaliya refugee camp, Yasser Arafat is overwhelmed by a cheering the cradle of the intifada (AFP photo)

## More Israelis favour PLO talks

The Jerusalem Post

FIFTY-NINE per cent of the public has come to terms with Israel's negotiations with the PLO, and half now believe that Israel should no longer apply any significant force in maintaining law and order in the territories, according to a new poll just released by the Regim-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University.

Fifteen months ago, support for talks with the PLO stood at 46 per cent and those believing no significant force should be applied in the territories stood at 33 per cent.

Furthermore, according to the poll the number of Israelis opposing almost all settlements has gone up from 26.2 per cent to 33.8 per cent in the last six months. Those supporting all settlement activity dropped from 30.9 per cent to 25.2 per cent during this period.

## Colombian star killed

(Continued from page 1)

Escobar's body was being held. "People are calling from all over the nation, asking 'why?' We can't say why. We don't know how this tragedy could have happened," said an RCN commentator.

Luis Alfredo Ramos, mayor of Colombia's third-largest city, said other World Cup players living in Medellin would be given bodyguards and that a reward would be offered for the capture of the assassins.

The Colombian team had received death threats after Escobar, trying to block a shot, accidentally tipped the ball away from the goalkeeper and into the goal to give the Americans a 1-0 lead during a June 22 game in Pasadena, California.

The United States went on to win that match 2-1 in an upset. Colombia, a pre-tournament favourite, also lost to Romania and was eliminated from the World Cup despite defeating Switzerland in its final first-round game on June 26.

Escobar had returned with his defeated team from the United States on Wednesday. Colombians were dismayed to see their sports heroes go down so quickly in defeat.

After the team was eliminated, anonymous threats against the players and their coach began arriving at TV and radio stations.

government offices," he claimed in angry tones, which surprised even some of his listeners.

"We find ourselves under a tremendous attack from the right," Rabin declared. "I expect that this weekend we shall witness the epitome of the extreme right's and the entire right's riots, and who knows where this will lead. They had been collecting vast funds, some even from overseas, and all with the hope of bringing down this government by causing violence in the streets," Rabin asserted. "I, for one minute, do not imagine that we shall not use all the might at our disposal to defend law and order."

As he sees it, "the right had to clutch onto Arafat's visit and make a great crisis out of it, because they can no longer dance over spilled blood — not enough blood was spilled for that in June.

At the same time, the public has yet to be convinced that peace agreements with Palestinians or Syrians will lead to a wider regional peace.

"The main message of this poll," said Professor Efraim Inbar, director of the BESA Center, "is that a dovish shift in Israeli attitudes, evident for several years, continues. Rabin is managing to lead Israelis beyond long-standing and widely accepted political positions, and he has succeeded in de-legitimising Jewish settlements."

"Moreover, Israelis are increasingly tired of the conflict, and in the absence of an opposition with a clear political alternative, Rabin has been able to hold sway."

At the same time, Inbar also says the poll points to a lack of enthusiasm for the Rabin government.

According to the poll, support for Labor is at 24.5 per

cent, compared to 25.9 per cent six months ago, while Likud has failed to capitalise on Labor's problems and dropped from 29.8 per cent to 25.4 per cent during this period.

The poll demonstrates virtually no support for full withdrawal from the Golan. However, when the question about full withdrawal was asked in other polls to include adequate security arrangements and not just withdrawal, support jumped to 3 per cent.

According to the BESA poll, when asked if Israelis would agree to partial withdrawal from the Golan, support rose from 35 per cent to 45 per cent in the past year.

The poll was conducted by Modi'in Ezzabi, which surveyed 1,149 adult Israeli Jews in face-to-face interviews between May 29 and June 14. The sampling error is three per cent.

## Koreas finalise summit accord

SEOUL (AP) — Clearing a key hurdle toward holding an historic summit later this month, North and South Korea on Saturday reached an overall agreement on logistics for the presidential meeting, the South said.

Signing of the accord came after negotiators for the two sides, meeting in the border village of Panmunjom, ironed out disputes over television coverage and security preparations.

The summit, scheduled July 25-27 in the north's capital of Pyongyang, is intended to ease tensions stemming from the 16-month standoff over the North's nuclear programme.

The communist North says its nuclear programme is peaceful, but has not allowed full international inspections to prove that claim.

On Saturday, the second of two days of working-level talks, the north accepted South Korea's proposal to send an advance team to Pyongyang the week of July 10, South Korean officials said.

North Korea had at first insisted that the team come only two or three days before the summit began, which the South said was not enough time to make the necessary security arrangements.

Thief two sides also reached a compromise Saturday over television coverage of the

summit. South Korea networks will not dispatch their own broadcasting vehicles, as they had wanted to; instead, North Korea will lend them equipment for live transmissions. Previously, the North had insisted that tape and film be transported out by courier.

After the final points were resolved, the two sides spent several hours negotiating the precise wording of the overall accord.

In Friday's talks, the two sides agreed that South Korean President Kim Young-Sam and North Korean leader Kim Il Sung would hold at least two semi-private meetings during the summit at which they will be joined by only one or two aides.

The North had initially sought a single session with a large contingent of aides in attendance.

Negotiators also agreed Friday that South Korea would be allowed to send a 100-member official entourage and 80-member press corps to the summit.

Despite the progress in laying summit groundwork, North Korea kept up harsh rhetorical attacks on the south on other issues.

On Saturday, its official Korean central news agency denounced South Korean defence officials for responding coolly to a recent northern call for a troop pullback along the border.

## War for Kabul continues

KABUL (Agencies) — The president's air force launched a fresh round of air strikes Saturday in an attempt to drive a rival from the eastern fringes of the city.

In response, troops to renegade Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and warlord Rashid Dostum pounded the capital with artillery and rocket fire.

The opposition forces also carried out their own air strikes, bombing an abandoned barracks near the presidential palace and a largely deserted apartment complex. There was no immediate word on casualties.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani's forces have scored several key military victories in the past week, driving the rival groups from their strongholds on the southern and eastern edges of the city.

However, the Hekmatyar and Dostum forces can still unleash air strikes and rocket the city from the surrounding hills.

The heaviest fighting Saturday appeared to be in Deb Khudaydad, a small village on the banks of the Kabul River in the eastern part of the city.

Also, the president's jets bombed the rebel positions atop Marjan Hill just beyond the eastern edge of Kabul. The prime minister's forces continue to hold some positions on the hill despite their recent setbacks.

At least 22 people have been killed and 142 wounded since Thursday in rebel rocket attacks in the crowded civilian neighbourhoods, hospital officials said. The heavy rocketing has driven most civilians from the eastern side of Kabul.

The Afghan civil war is seen as little more than a power struggle between the various faction leaders, all of whom claim they want to build an Islamic government.

The factions fought as a loose coalition to drive out the Soviet forces in 1989, and then toppled the communist government in 1992. They have been shooting at each other since, destroying much of Kabul and leaving the Central Asian nation without a functioning government.

Secretary-General Hamid Al Ghabid of the Organisation of Islamic Conference was due in the Pakistani capital Islamabad later on Saturday to begin talks with Afghan leaders in an attempt to end factional fighting.

Ten people were killed and 50 wounded in Kharibane area controlled by presidential forces as the western district was hit by at least 17 rockets Saturday, a security official said.

A total of 215 rockets and artillery shells landed in the presidential areas in central Kabul, killing four civilians and injuring more than 35, a spokesman for Mr. Rabbani's garrison said. Most of those killed were civilians.

Several dozen rockets landed at the former diplomatic area of Wazir Akbar Khan, he said.

Zardard, one of the main commanders of Mr. Hekmatyar, said on Friday the opposition forces would be launching a major offensive against the presidential forces. He did not give any date or time.

## COLUMN

## Police sergeant in beating case convicted of neglect

DETROIT (AP) — A former Detroit police sergeant was convicted on neglect of duty Friday for failing to stop two police officers from beating a man to death with metal flashlights. Freddie Douglas testified Thursday that he never saw a blow struck after he arrived at the scene of the beating as the supervising officer. He was fired after the beating. Mr. Douglas faces up to a year in jail for the misdemeanor. A sentencing date has not been set. His lawyer said he would appeal. Former police officers Larry Nevers and Walter Budzyn were convicted last year of second-degree murder in the 1992 death of Malice Green outside a suspected drug house. A manslaughter charge against Mr. Douglas was dropped. Witnesses testified Mr. Nevers and Mr. Budzyn beat Green with heavy metal flashlights when Green refused to open his clenched hand. Mr. Douglas testified that he arrived at the scene to find Mr. Nevers trying to control Green, who was resisting attempts to handcuff him. Mr. Nevers is serving 12 to 25 years in prison; Mr. Budzyn is serving eight to 18.

## Knight-Ridder chairman undergoes surgery for brain tumour

MIAMI (AP) — James K. Batten, one of the nation's leading news executives as chairman and chief executive officer of Knight-Ridder Inc., was in stable condition following surgery Friday to remove a brain tumour.

The tumour was discovered Thursday in his right temporal lobe by a magnetic resonance imaging scan, and Bratten underwent seven hours of surgery Friday afternoon at Jackson Memorial Hospital, said company spokesman Polk Laffoon.

Dr. Howard Landy, the neurosurgeon who performed the operation, said Mr. Batten came through the surgery well and was "talking clearly and lucidly" afterwards, according to a company statement. Dr. Landy said the tumour was probably malignant, but it would be several days before pathology reports could confirm the diagnosis. If the malignancy is confirmed, Mr. Laffoon said radiation treatment would begin within the next few weeks.

Mr. Batten, 58, a lifelong newspaperman who has spent 35 years with Knight-Ridder, was seriously injured last October in a car accident. The accident was blamed on an unexplained seizure. Mr. Laffoon said Mr. Batten suffered a "temporal lobe seizure" and blacked out while driving. Tests conducted after the accident. The accident now believe Mr. Batten suffered a "temporal lobe seizure" and blacked out while driving. Tests conducted after the accident.

The accident now believe Mr. Batten suffered a "temporal lobe seizure" and blacked out while driving. Tests conducted after the accident revealed no tumour. Mr. Laffoon said Mr. Batten would remain in intensive care over the weekend and could be released in about 10 days.

Mr. Batten was named president of the media group in 1982, became chief executive officer in 1988 and added the title of chairman the following year. He served on the Associated Press board of directors from 1984 until April 1993.

Prisoner makes oral history

CHARLESTON, W.VA. (AP) — Robert Shepard didn't need a file baked in a cake to get out of jail. Dental floss worked just fine. While cameras, guards and computer-controlled doors were keeping other inmates in, Mr. Shepard braced the floss into a rope as thick as a telephone cord and used it to scale a 5.4-metre wall. Now, Mr. Shepard as a real-life Spiderman — the comic-book hero who spins his web and hangs from ceilings — uses for floss. "I just wonder how he got ahold of so much dental floss," said Mike Reiser, who lives near the south central regional jail in South Charleston.

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